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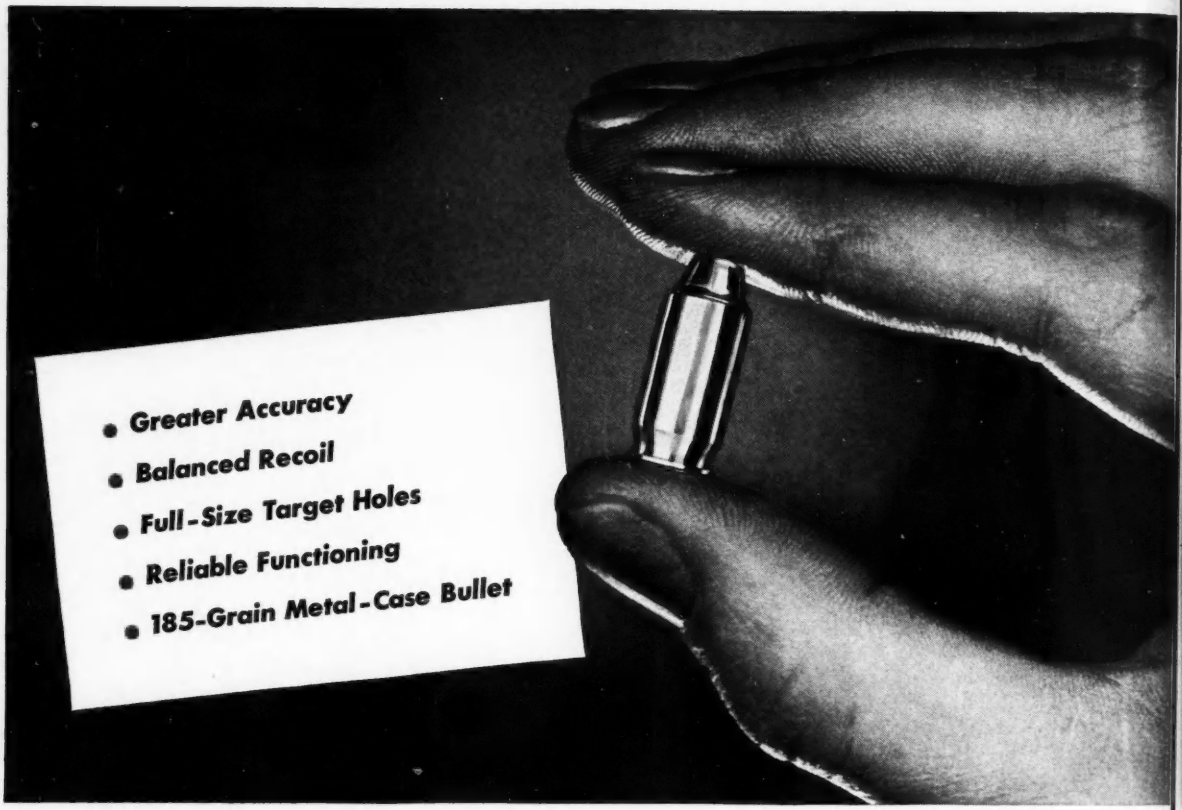

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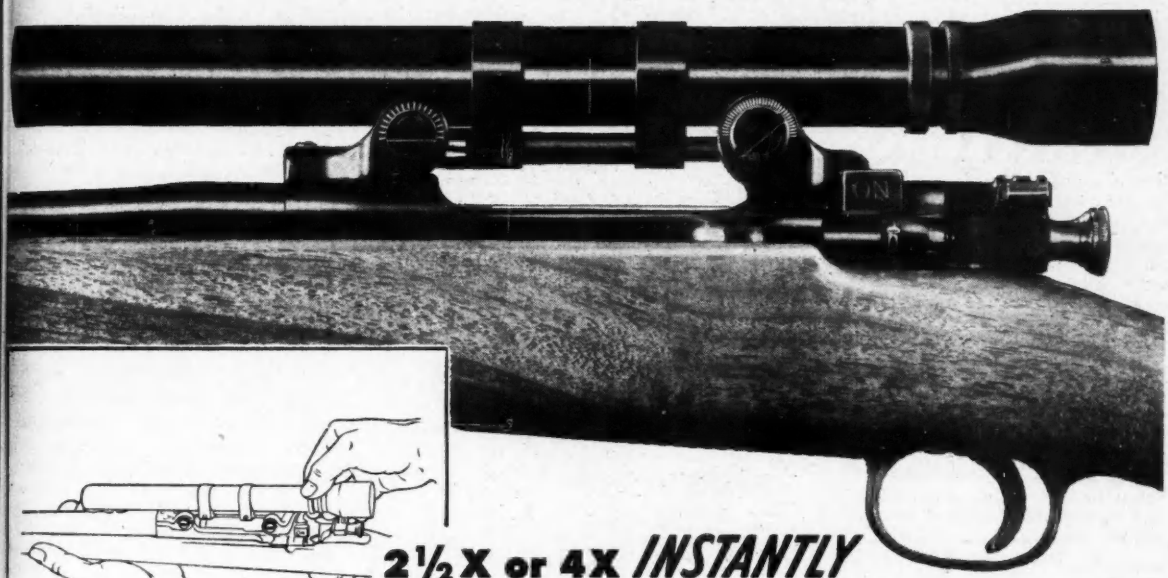

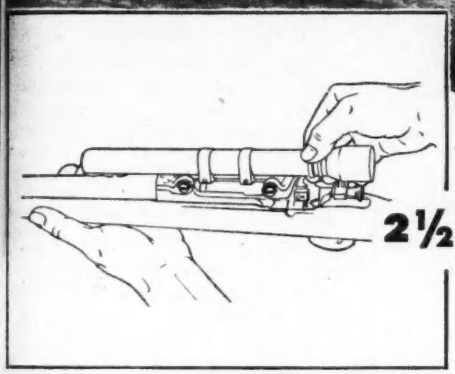

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RIFLEMAN WORDS

Each month this 'lexicon for shooters' devoted to a few words peculiar to the sho ing game which may be puzzling to newcomer.

BLACK POWDER—An early gunpow made by mixing charcoal, sulphur and s peter. Now largely obsolete, black pow burns with considerable smoke and foul

BULK SMOKELESS POWDER—A che cally compounded gunpowder with a nit cellulose base which can be loaded by b measurement. When smokeless pow was first produced, it was in the form bulk smokeless so that the powder co be loaded in guns and cartridges meas for measure with black powder.

CORDITE—A nitroglycerine propell used principally in Britain. The name derived from the cord-like shape of powder.

GAS CHECK—A small cap, usually m of copper alloy, which is pressed on base of a cast bullet to protect the l from the hot, high-pressure gases g erated by burning of the powder charg

LUBRICATED BULLET—A lead-alloy l let which has been coated with a he grease or wax-and-grease mixture to down on friction in the bore. Most l bullets are designed with grooves, ca cannelures, into which the lubricant forced. Most .22-caliber rimfire am nition is loaded with lubricated bullet

NATIONAL MATCH COURSE—In pi shooting, ten shots slow fire at 50 ya and ten each at 25 yards, timed and ra fire. NRA time limits are used and firing is on Standard American Targ

PROGRESSIVE POWDER—A type of g powder which begins burning slowly w ignited and increases the rate of c bustion as pressure is built up inside cartridge case or shotgun shell. The t is used to distinguish progressive burn powder from older propellants which b at the same rate regardless of pres within the cartridge.

RECOIL SHOULDER—A lug which proj on the underside of the receiver and r against the wood of the stock. The f of recoil is transmitted to the stock thro the recoil shoulder, which must butt fir against the inletted area around the ceiver to prevent the stock splitting w the barrel and action recoils.

REGISTERED TOURNAMENT—A t nament which has had its program administration approved by the Nati Rifle Association prior to the firing o Scores made in registered tournaments the basis for the establishment of nati and international records and are use establishing a shooter's NRA classi tion.

SKID SHOT—An elongated hole in a p target caused by a bullet hitting the ta as it is turning into or out of view.

SMOKELESS POWDER—A chemical pound normally built around nitrocell which is in common use today as a pro lant explosive because it burns wit minimum of ash and smoke.

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TOO MANY MASTERS?

St. Louis, Mo.

Editor:

I believe that the present requirement of a 93 average for 'Master' classification with center-fire pistol is disproportionately high, compared with the same requirement for the .22 caliber. In my opinion it is much more difficult to attain a 93 average with the center fire than it is with the .22; and the following figures will substantiate me.

Last year in the eight regionals, of 776 total competitors in the .22 matches 142 (18.3 percent) averaged 93 or better. Yet in the same regionals, of 674 entries in the center-fire matches only 53 or 7.8 percent averaged 93 or better!

In the 1947 Nationals (Camp Perry) while 13.5 percent of the competitors averaged 93 or better in the .22-caliber matches only 3.8 percent did so in the center-fire matches!

In the 1949 National Midwinter Tournament at Tampa while 13.4 percent averaged 93 or better with the .22-caliber matches, only 4.4 percent did with the center fire.

In the Calexico 1949 matches 24 percent (!) averaged 93 or better with the .22 and only 5.6 percent did so with the center fire.

A recapitulation of all the above figures reveals the following: of 1660 competitors in the .22-caliber matches, 276 averaged 93 or better, or *16.5 percent;* of 1487 competitors in the center-fire matches only 88 averaged 93 or better, or *5.9 percent.*

The implication is obvious. There will be three times as many .22 Masters as center-fire Masters unless an adjustment is made! Either the .22 average requirement should be raised or the center fire should be lowered. In keeping with the basic concept which should limit Masters to about six percent I believe the center-fire requirement should be continued at 93 and the .22 requirement raised to a statistically predetermined level that will result in six percent Masters (probably around 95). This can easily be determined by a statistical frequency distribution survey of .22 scores.

A. M. LIBASCI
Colonel, U. S. Army

● *Comparable figures, compiled from NRA competitive records, will be presented before the pistol committee during the convention meeting at Denver this month. Their recommendations will govern action by the Association's executive committee.*—ED.

FASHION NOTE

Venice, California

Editor:

Say, what's in that August issue, anyway? Here it is the 12th and I still can't get past the cover.

L. V. SMITH

TOUGH CRITTERS

Nephi, Utah

Editor:

Just finished reading "Tough Critters" by Elmer Keith in the August issue, and must admit it is quite an article. I suppose those Idaho elk are really mean and tough when compared with their sedate cousins here in Utah.

But tell Mr. Keith to remain hopeful. It is entirely possible that a new weapon m emerge from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, duri our lifetime, that will *really* drop those t rible beasts. Meanwhile, we hunters must content with elephant guns, and souped- magnums to stop these huge, ferocio critters.

FRANK H. BOOTH

Sioux Falls, S. D.

Editor:

After so many articles with so much e phasis on enough killing power to do t job humanely this is quite nauseating. Elm Keith, the mighty hunter, first rumpshoots l elk, then cuts a "fir cudgel" and he and l partner take turns pounding the poor 'critt over the head. After tiring of that spo they cut the elk's throat from ear to ear worse and finally, when that pleasant lit pastime is no longer entertaining, they "gr the bull by the horns' and twist his head o All this to save four cartridges.

C. A. CARSON, D.D.S.

Washington, D. C.

Editor:

I feel that someone should . . . say a fe words in defense of Elmer Keith and h "Tough Critters" in the August issu Brother Horner, who tears into Keith the September issue, brands himself a ne comer to the ranks, if he is unfamiliar wi Keith's writings.

The only trouble with Keith's stories that there are not enough of them. H articles of twenty years ago on handgu holsters and bullet penetration are to m mind outstanding RIFLEMAN material, a worthy of republication.

HARRY GOODWIN

TAKE IT, JACKSON

Logan, Utah

Editor:

I had to laugh at Bud Jackson's "So Y Want to Go Light". I'd sure hate to ha him packing for me. You know, after a that huge quantity of what I'd call no essentials, he forgot the grub.

I would suggest he leave home the a mattress; hasn't he heard of spruce bough I think, too, he could do without his pillo one pair of trousers, one shirt, two pair socks, rain coat, five rolls of film for his film pack camera, all his movie stuff, toilet k and one bath towel. Hell, if he gets wet can dry his clothes by a fire.

JIM MCCLELLAN

Los Angeles, Calif.

Editor:

Bud Jackson's was an excellent article my opinion except for one thing and that w his indiscriminate packing of sulfa drugs his first-aid kit.

The sulfa drugs are not to be used as so people use aspirin—they are dangerous wh not taken under the advice and prescripti of a physician.

May I offer a few substitutes for the sul drugs on a hunting trip. Instead of the sul gargle take a bottle of chlorazene table These are very good for any type of thro infection and can be *(Continued on page*

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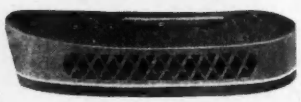

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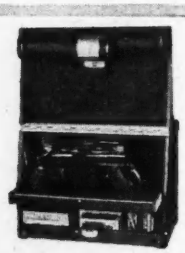

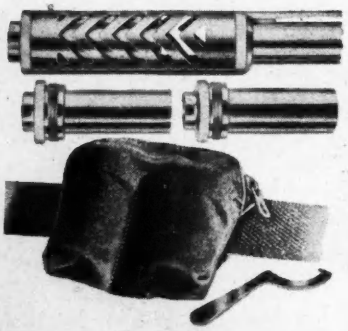

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used with advantage as a disinfectant also. Iodine in a carbolated vaseline type of salve may be used instead of the sulfa ointment. As for the sulfa pills, I suppose these are meant to be used in case of a cold. A better compound than this (they have no toxic effect) would be a bromo-quinine compound tablet. If too many of these are taken, they may affect your vision. But all in all the risk is negligible compared to what might happen through the unlimited use of sulfa drugs.

THOMAS TORPY

8-MM RIFLES

New York, N. Y.

Editor:

In your article on the 8-mm. Mauser you state that a standard American rifle in 8-mm Mauser caliber was never available to the American shooting public. Both the Model 54 Winchester and Model 30 Remington were made in this caliber as well as for the rest of the metric family, the 7-mm., 7.65-mm. and 9-mm. calibers.

FRANCIS VON MULLER, JR.

NO MORE GUNS

Wiesbaden, Germany

Editor:

The Germans are every bit as passionate shooters as are we Americans, and it is a source of great grief to them that we have demilitarized them right down to the last BB gun. However, they are still keeping their eyes in with the appearance on the open market of a stout crossbow whose purchase and use has been ruled legal by MG as the weapon does not come within the firearms category covered by their rules. American hunters who have protested this ruling met with the reply that a German could also hunt with a pitchfork, billy club or kitchen knife, a somewhat far-fetched line of reasoning. All hunting, except that done by recognized forestry officials and licensed guides in the company of Allied hunters, is still forbidden to Germans, but the ready availability of venison and wild boar meat in German cafes is adequate testimony to the fact that a helluva lot of poaching is going on.

The "armbruster" (crossbow) they use is a well-constructed weapon, heavy, but with good balance. It fires a ten-inch steel-tipped quarrel which will group . . . within 4 inches at 80 yards. It has double set-triggers and a micrometer rear sight, and is cocked with the aid of a longhandled toggle lever. The quarrel is reputed to have been driven through a six-inch pine tree at 50 meters, and would certainly drive completely through both red deer and hirsch, and perhaps through the heavier boar.

The old shooting societies are reforming again, with the crossbow instead of the Schuetzen rifle, and I'll have to confess a sneaking sympathy for them. It was not the fact that Germans were ardent target shooters that got them into this mess anyway.

Ward R. Betz,
Lt. Col. USAF

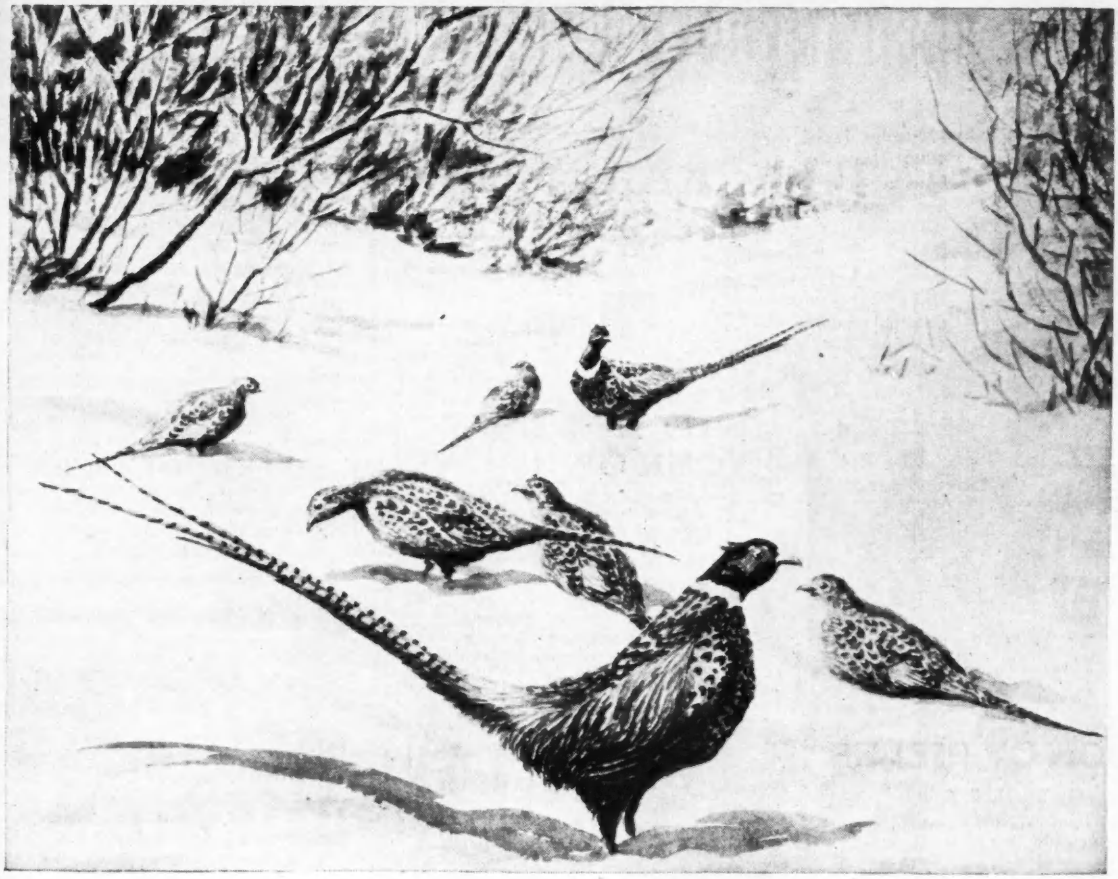
DENVER GUNSMITHS

Oakmont, Pennsylvania

Editor:

Regrettably, Mr. Serven's interesting article on the gunmakers of Denver omits any mention of Sam'l Hawken or the partnership of G. W. Hightower and W. A. Adams, who are listed as gunsmiths in the first directory of "Denver City and Auraria" published in 1859.

(Continued on page 5)



"PHEASANTS IN WINTER"

by Hans Kleiber

The first snow lies sparkling in the sunlight. A frosty wind whips it into crystal mist. And in a sheltered gully the ringnecks proudly strut their regal beauty.

Today, in many places, such scenes are getting rare. There are more hunters, yet less game than ever before. The preservation of American wildlife calls for immediate action. Start now. Limit your bag, and join and support local and national organizations for game restoration and conservation. E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. (Inc.), Explosives Department, Wilmington 98, Delaware.

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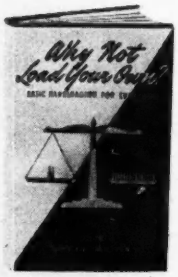

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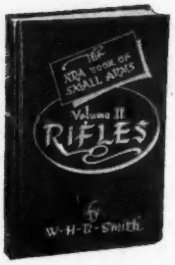

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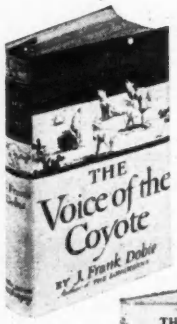

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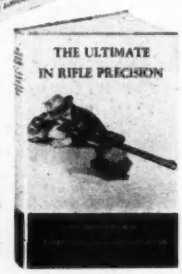

Order from NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W. Washington 6, D. C.

For a while Lower's business apparently operated at 1511 Larimer Street under the name of John P. Lower's Sons, according to the labels on some old cartridge boxes in my possession.

With his advancing years, Axel Petersen had no use whatsoever for percussion firearms and little sympathy for the men that shot them. His stock reply to inquiries concerning parts for percussion guns was, "Vy dont 'ave no parts for dose dam tings." However, if the approach was right, he frequently found what was desired or, at least, set out a box of 'yunk' among which one was permitted to search for the desired part.

As Mr. Serven has implied, the history of Denver probably makes up in color what it lacks in antiquity.

Duncan McConnell

SHOOTERS' BIBLE

Windy Flats, S. D.

Editor:

How dare you break up our home?

My husband (bless him) and I were hitting it off very well, until he decided to join the NRA and abide by your creeds.

Now the RIFLEMAN is his Bible. The Gospel Truth! If it isn't in the RIFLEMAN it isn't so.

I should even cook by this book??

Hazel Alias

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

River Rouge, Mich.

Editor:

I have had one year's intensive shooting up to this summer, so I'm not to be classed as an old-timer or an expert at this game. It has meant a year of hard application to the different fundamentals of good rifle shooting, both indoor and outdoors, and the striving towards perfection. That is what this brand of shooting demands. But why all of the bellyflopping? That seems to be all the small-bore rifle shooters care to do. Oh, yes, we do shoot the different positions indoors, but under near-perfect conditions. Why not shoot offhand outdoors? It seems to me that most shooters are afraid of it.

Our club has sent out a goodly number of challenges to other outfits, stating in it that we challenge them to a prone and offhand match. The response? We got one taker. The majority of them just shied away. Some never answered. One club said that they wouldn't be able to meet the offhand challenge because they don't go in for pistol shooting. Imagine that!

All of the money spent on fine equipment and the thousands of hunters partaking in this shooting has done nothing to further the excellency and sport of offhand shooting. Why? Are they scared? Do they lack the confidence? Or are they just too used to near-perfect conditions and dread a little sport? And, too, so far as I know the NRA doesn't even have offhand shooting considered in outdoor scoring. Why? We are sponsoring a tournament with a team event in it that requires shooting prone and offhand, but I'm afraid it will be a flop, because people just don't do anything but bellyflop outdoors.

Is this a gripe or a criticism? I dont know. But I do know that grandpa would turn over in his grave if he could see me bellyflop when I go outdoors to shoot in competition.

Preston J. Hogue, President
Steelworkers Rifle & Pistol Club

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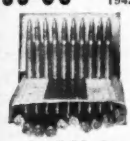

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Incidentally . . .

Did you ever see a dream waiting to come true before your eyes? We did a couple of years ago, and the thing has haunted us ever since. Maybe a printing plant doesn't sound like Santa Claus to most people, but editors are all crazy. It was a magazine plant, where regional editions of *Time* and *Life* magazine were produced, and to us it looked too good to be true. We were there on a day when both *Time* and *Life* were 'in the works.'

The impression that has stayed with us ever since was the speed and efficiency of the operation . . . all the way from the automatic linotype machines which set the type to the method of loading trucks for post-office delivery. As we watched, paper in 2000-pound rolls fed endlessly into a great rotary press, and out of the other end of the mechanical monster flowed copies of *Life* magazine . . . complete except for the cover . . . at something like 12,000 copies an hour. Automatic machinery carried on as cover and inside pages were brought together, stitched, trimmed, addressed, bundled and bumped along an endless belt conveyor onto trucks. We didn't ask, but elapsed time between roll of paper and finished magazine on the way to the post office could not have been much over five or ten minutes.

All this was very well, of course . . . for *Time* and *Life*. The RIFLEMAN was something else again. When we stopped to figure it out, our circulation at that time would have been just about enough to get that press up to full speed before the last copy came off. It was obvious that the RIFLEMAN couldn't be handled in that big a pond without a lot of headaches . . . and perhaps some sacrifices. The plant was just too big for the likes of us.

☆ ☆ ☆

Even so, the memory of that printing plant became something of an ideal. On days when there was nothing better to do we'd dream of a scaled-down version, where RIFLEMAN could be produced as smoothly, efficiently, and as rapidly as are *Time* and *Life*. We'd drool every time we saw a picture of a shiny new high-speed press, or an automatic stitching machine. Well, it seems that our printers have been going ahead with some plans of their own and meanwhile, were listening without comment to our tiresome dirge about printing quality.

A few weeks ago, they let us in on their secret. The dream of ours is going to come true.

☆ ☆ ☆

By the time this issue comes off the presses our printers will have broken ground for a brand new addition to the plant. Early next year, right in the middle of that nice new wing, they're going to set up a press that looks a lot like the big fellows we saw a couple of years ago. And that's not all. When the sections of the magazine come off of that press, they'll be stacked in hoppers at one end of a strange looking machine that will be almost as long as the press itself. This near-human contraption picks up the three 32-page sections of the magazine (signatures, they call them) along with the cover, stitches them together and passes them on to an automatic cutting machine that trims extra paper from the sides of each copy. From there they go on to another complicated gadget called a Cheshire mailer. This little number puts the address sticker right smack on the cover picture (. . . which is another story. We've got to leave something for readers to hope about). Elapsed time from paper roll to finished magazine? We'll have to wait a while for that answer. We would almost take bets, though, that it will be possible in less than two minutes! Regardless of that, however, we think that the quality we've been asking for is all but in the bag. And just to make you happy, we promise here and now to keep our mouths shut (as far as this column is concerned) about future production headaches or the lack thereof. We for a couple of issues, anyway.—J. S.

COVER

Old-timer Tex Cooper has watched the West grow up. Born in Texas more than 85 years ago, Cooper journeyed to Oklahoma in a covered wagon during the Civil War. Once grown, Cooper was successively an Oklahoma deputy marshal, a performer with Buffalo Bill, Pawnee Bill, Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch and other 'wild west' shows, and finally a movie actor via occasional roles in Hollywood's Western epics. Cooper bears the distinction of being 'the oldest cowboy in the movies.' The photo was taken on Ansco film by Californian Elwood L. Peithman.

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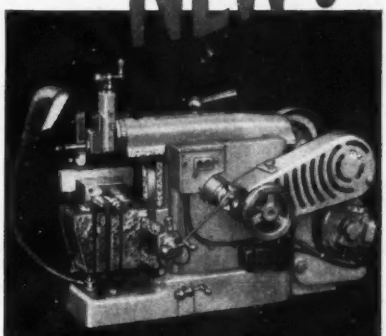

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Texas bullseye . . .

Texas, like every other state, has its quota of citizens who think that 'something ought to be done' about guns in the hands of criminals.

Unlike the people in a lot of other states, most Texans do *not* believe that disarming reputable citizens will disarm the thug. Still, there has been the feeling down Texas way that 'there ought to be a law'.

With typically Texan independence, Lone Star legislators disregarded all the wordy, legalistic regimentation of honest citizens and dealers heretofore enacted and proposed in the generally misguided states north of the Red River and wrote themselves a new kind of 'anti-gun' law. It passed both Houses of the Texas Legislature unanimously and was signed by the Governor on July twenty-fifth.

Here is what the new Texas law says:

"It shall be unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a felony involving an act of violence with a firearm under the Laws of the United States or of the State of Texas, or of any other State, to have in his possession away from the premises upon which he lives, any pistol, revolver or any other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person.

"Anyone violating any of the provisions of this Act shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than one (1) nor more than five (5) years."

There are a couple of exceptions which seem to weaken the law a little. It applies only to guns having barrels less than twelve inches in length—and a lot of Texas bad men have created considerable trouble with guns longer than that. It also exempts from its penal provisions any person employed as a peace officer, guard or watchman—which will cause some people to raise an inquiring eyebrow and ask if the lawmakers condone hiring as law-enforcement officers people previously convicted of felonies. Also exempted from being sent back to jail under the new law are people who haven't been in jail for five years. We fear that sooner or later these exemptions will serve as grounds for a demand that the law be tightened up. But we aren't going to be picayunish about the matter because Texas aimed a gun law at the thugs and for the first time in history the law hit the thugs *and no one else!* Texas has scored a legislative bullseye.

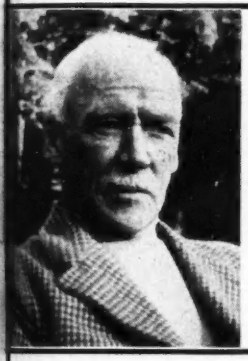
The next time somebody says 'there ought to be a law to make it tougher for gun-toting thugs' we are going to say, "Sure! Texas has that kind of a law. Here's a copy. Adopt it in your state and quit worrying about *honest* people who want to sell, buy and legitimately use guns."

Lots of things have been written and said, friendly and otherwise, about Texas and its bulls. There's only one thing to be said about the gun-toting law which became effective in Texas, July 25, 1949:

Bullseye!

C. B. Lister

KARAMOJO SAFARI



W. D. M. Bell *was taken out of school for committing the unspeakable sin of hitting an umpire with a cricket bat, and sent to sea aboard a sailing vessel. For the next thirty years, Bell lived a life of adventure. His quarter century in Africa as lion and elephant hunter extraordinary was climaxed by five years alone among the natives of game-rich Karamojo. This two-part article is from Bell's own account of those eventful years: "Karamojo Safari" (Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York, 1949. $3.75).*

WHEN I FIRST arrived in Africa in 1897 an era in exploration was coming to an end. The scramble for territory with its attendant penetration and occupation of new countries was drawing to a close. The map of Africa at least was colored and its boundless territories portioned out to the various powers concerned. All this penetration and occupation had been carried out mostly by large military expeditions fully armed with rifles, machine guns and—in some cases—with cannon; all without even consulting the original owners. Mostly these owners of the soil were savage and primitive peoples. Generally speaking they knew nothing of trade or even money. Consequently when large bodies of foreign men appeared suddenly on their tribal boundaries they fought to defend their meager stocks of foodstuffs from the ravenous hordes. The result was a foregone conclusion: rivers of native blood were shed.

All these expeditions were armed with black powder weapons, adequate enough to kill humans but poor performers against the prolific game herds that then literally swarmed on the African prairies and in the forests. These herds that could so easily have fed the expeditions were completely ignored; all rations had to be drawn from native herds and from native gardens, with the natural consequence that they had to be paid for in bullets.

Now Africa is an immense continent and although the result of all these occupations looked well on the map actually there were huge territories still untouched—some as large as France. Into one of these countries it was my lot to penetrate and live for five years without the killing of a native. There were, of course, moments of hostility and even of danger. But it never came, that decisive killing that so often started the ball rolling.

It was the advent of the modern rifle that decided the issue. Smokeless powder, magazine fire and, above all, the solid nickel-covered bullet made the difference. Where elephant, rhino, buffalo had hitherto simply repelled the soft leaden bullets of the former invaders of their centuries-old sanctuaries the solid nickel-jacketed bullet of the .303 now reached their vitals, whether brain or heart, and laid them low. Suddenly meat food—Africa's greatest lack—became abundant through the miraculous properties of a firearm without smoke and of small bore. From the role of public enemy number one the invader suddenly assumed the mantle of General Provider of Meat for everyone. Tons and tons of meat provided in a single encounter with elephant. They got the meat and the invader got the bones—as they called the ivory—so everyone was happy.

The first rifle I used in Africa against anything larger than a rabbit was a single-shot falling-block .303. It had a side lever and was a poor extractor, but was light, handy, beautifully sighted by Fraser of Edinburgh and, of course, had the lovely snappy pull-off that distinguishes this system above all others. Likewise the release shudder at pull-off was at its minimum as the internal hammer and striker were, of necessity, of very small dimensions and weight. But, alas, all these desirable features were washed out by impossibly poor extraction. It was in the days of cordite-loaded cartridges and when these had been well baked in a tropical sun the pressures used to rise enough to rupture the cases and there you were, disarmed until you got to work with a ramrod. As all this was in East Africa—now called Kenya—it was self-evident that something would have to be done about it. Lion, rhino and game of all kinds was in great abundance on all sides as it had been quite untouched by the rare Swahili and Arab safaris then using the Mombassa-Uganda trail, most of the big trading caravans using the Dar-es-Salaam-Ujiji trail.

I was unlucky enough to find a .450 single-shot Winchester falling block with outside hammer, in the possession of a Greek trader. It used a very long tapered case and burned a lot of black powder be-

* *Reprinted by permission.*

ROUTE OF THE AUTHOR'S SAFARI THROUGH
KARAMOJO
Safari's Route
SCALE OF MILES
ABOSA
SWAMP
TURKANA
LAKE RUDOLF
Dongiro
Kilawa's Camp
BASE CAMP
NABWA
LOW DOSI
SWAMPY COUNTRY
JIWE
KARAMOJO
BUKO
NILE COUNTRY
Lake Kyoga
Kiliwi River
River Turkwel
SIN GISHU PLATEAU
Kakamega
Black figure indicates location
LAKE VICTORIA
NZOIA RIVER
Mumias

nd a light lead bullet. It was in poor condition externally t pretty good inside and, what mattered most, it would ract. So showing my beautifully blued and handsomely cked .303 a trade was soon effected. All would have been ell had it not been for the fact that all the ammunition I ot with this rifle had that ghastly failure, the hollow copper-int bullet.

Lion were then very numerous and bold. Although their tural food, zebra and antelope of all kinds, simply covered landscape there were the old lions with worn teeth and lled claws to be reckoned with. Owing to the unfortunate stom of some of the tribes of throwing out their dead to be oured by vultures by day and by hyenas and jackals by ght, many of these failing lion found it much easier to chase the bitterly protesting hyena from some festering corpse in to stand the ordeal by chase of the living quarry. From rpse to living being was but a short step, and, as these were erally unarmed women, an easy one. When used on the aller antelope and gazelle, such as Thomson's, duiker, klip-inger, oribi or impalla, our preferred meat for the pot, the per-point .450 bullet was very effective. In fact too much It simply blew up and destroyed almost half the back; a ssy business. Naturally the neck shot was used when the ge would allow a fair chance of a hit.

One morning, just as the boys were giving the donkeys ir last chance of a drink at the water hole, before a long thirsty trek, one of them came running back to say there s a lion at the water hole. Here was a tryout for the .450. The lion had left the water hole and my first glimpse of him s as he stood in a patch of unburnt grass, only his head owing, and about 40 yards distant. Thinking to blow his ad off I let him have it. To my astonishment he lowered his ad and started a most unholy growling and lashing about. could not get in another shot before he darted back into me thick brush.

I was now joined by a native hunter with a muzzle loader. he growling had ceased and the native said he was dead. We approached the patch of bush, I in the lead. On reach-g the edge of the patch it was obvious that visibility was nil. t a sound from the lion. The patch was quite small so we ew he could not be far away. However my Scottish cau-n made me think to climb a handy tree for a look-see before ng in.

Hoisting my rifle up across two branches I was in the act of wing myself up when there was a roar and a yellow streak ht through and under my legs as I jerked them up. Seizing rifle as I dropped to the ground an exasperating target pre-ted itself—the lion overhauling the native hunter, so that ould not shoot. Next instant the native fell and the lion t clean over him, braked hard with all four legs and turned follow the native who was up and off at a tangent.

As the lion turned I got in a shot on the shoulder. This ted the chase and evidently sickened him as he limped off the bush again. Up came the undaunted native and we d a consultation.

By this time I had lost a considerable part of the confidence my rifle with which I had commenced the affair. However companion seemed quite unshaken—indeed he said he en dodged them by falling down like that—and said we st get all the people at the camp to help. Whereupon he me.

Surprisingly enough he returned with half a hundred boys med with clubs, *pangas* (large bush knives), axes and what-t. Forming ourselves into a line we then advanced into the nsest kind of bush, everyone shouting and whacking away with their knives while two or three native drums enlivened the proceedings. I seemed to be the only scared person there.

By the grace of Diana the lion was immobilized by his wounds from attempting any rush at us, although still full of fight. Had he done so inevitably someone would have become a casualty. As it was we soon finished him off, and the post-mortem began.

The first shot had struck below his left eye, had shattered the lower jaw and pieces of lead had lodged some in the upper palate while others had penetrated into the neck. But all were so small and lacking in energy as to be almost harmless. Some pieces were actually flattened out on the underside of the brain box. Certainly this bullet had prevented any tooth work —always such an important part of the lion's offensive armament—but it should have, by all ballistics, laid the animal flat out. It was end on when hit and had the bullet been a solid lead one I think that it would have carried on into the neck and so have proved fatal.

The shot in the shoulder had expended its energy in making a ghastly mess of the large muscles on the outer side of the foreleg but had not shattered the bone nor had any of the particles had sufficient force to penetrate the lungs or any vital part.

I had learned a valuable lesson, and lost no time in re-arming myself. My next rifle was a .303 Lee-Metford ten-shot using the round-nosed bullet weighing 215 grains. The powder was at that time cordite.

It was a mass-produced military affair but had been given a civilian fore-end and stock and sporting bead foresight with open V backsight. It retailed round about £7 in Britain. The ammo I got with it was now all solid jacketed stuff—so I was away to the other extreme, having now no bullets that would open up at all. This meant that extremely careful shooting would be required as in those days such modern stuff as .303 could not be got. The Coast where such things might be got was two months foot journey away anyway.

With this rifle and bullet I soon found that provided one got an end-on shot—either end would do—one could kill all the necessary meat animals with due economy of ammo. Sometimes too it was possible to kill two antelope with one bullet, broadside of course. Thus armed, I embarked on my first elephant-hunting safari.

There were forty-odd boys to feed and meat had to be got for trading native flour. In addition, elephant had to be slain for their ivory to make at least the expenses of the expedition, buffalo for their meat and hides for making sandals, giraffe likewise for their meat, fat and hide to trade off to the natives for making shields. Then all the common antelope—hartebeeste, topi, eland—had to be killed for meat and skins; the latter being used to make donkey saddles, for packing flour, water bags and, of course, ivory teeth when, and if, we got any. That .303 certainly had some work to do.

I never have liked our .303 action; it is so rough and unfinished looking when compared with the beautifully-polished products of the world-famous Springfield, Steyr or Mauser factories. But I must in fairness say that it almost never let me down. I say almost because there were times when through careless loading of the magazine a cartridge would fail to feed up to the chamber. Sometimes the nose tilted down, sometimes the magazine failed to push the case up enough for the bolt head to catch hold. These instances were extremely rare and luckily never happened at very awkward moments. As for that

loose-fitting rattletrap bolt nothing would stop it functioning. During the short rains when elephant are subjected to fierce sun between heavy rain showers and flies are fierce and mud plentiful the vegetation through which the hunter has to work his game is copiously drenched with liquid mud. Some of this dries between showers and clouds down on your rifle action as you pass along. I have had Mauser actions with their tighter-fitting bolts rendered almost useless through gritty mud, while the break-open double rifle under these conditions is a complete washout.

I am writing of the days when there were no restrictions on game hunting. And indeed there were almost no hunters except the old original natives with their pitfalls, falling spears, foot snares, spears, bows and arrows. How different it all is now, when a year's license costs £50 for one elephant and another £100 for a second one. When you are not allowed to kill enough meat to feed your boys and they have to be fed from tins where, in my day, countless thousands of animals milled around and tons of beef on the hoof were always in sight. To sum up the .303, on that first safari, it brought me in 63 head of bull elephant, average weight of tusk 53 pounds, two lion that had pestered the transport animals; it fed myself and some 50 boys—including my personal ones—and provided shoe leather for all hands besides all the other uses to which meat and hide are put under safari conditions. And all without any serious failure. The solid round-nosed very moderate-velocity 215-grain bullet was certain death either for the body shot or for the brain shot. Naturally the latter is the choice of the man who wants to recoup the expenses of his safari and leave a bit over for future expeditions. I was most certainly in that category.

The day's work, then, became not so much a matter of picking out the largest tusker from a bunch of bulls but rather a matter of how to so maneuver that the whole lot was laid low.

In diligent pursuit of this ideal it soon became obvious that the body shot would not do. When thus hit the animal would flinch and give forth a shattering bellow and would straightway launch out into headlong flight even when mortally hit. It did not continue long or far but this was enough to set off all the others; a poor show.

Hits in the brain were a very different matter. Frequently the animal dropped suddenly and quite silently to its knees. The huge ears continued to wave about as before, there were no groans or other signs of distress; in fact to all appearance the animal was still alive and tranquil but had unaccountably lost stature. Its companions, closely bunched into the shade of some large tree, merely raised their heads and trunks, questing mildly the reason for the sudden noise, thus presenting easy targets for further brain shots. All the success or otherwise hangs on the first shot, for should this be taken at a moving or swaying animal, and be fatal to that one, it will fall sideways and may stampede the others by so doing; not always, but sometimes.

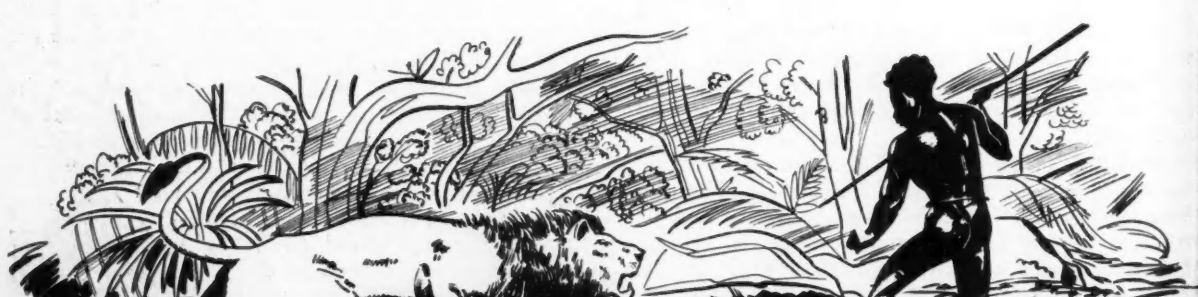
In course of time I acquired a long-barrelled .256 Mannlicher, stocked and sighted (iron sights, but extremely refined) by Gibbs of Bristol. I did not use this rifle on elephant—I don't know why, unless it was that I had only soft-nosed bullets. It was not until later that I got a .256 Mannlicher-Schoenauer and used it on elephant. I used the long Gibbs—a most beautiful rifle—entirely for meat getting. And what a deadly weapon it was. I have known it to lay out a score of antelope from one anthill stance in the cool air of morning or evening. When, in course of time, my safari grew to a strength of over 100 boys and their wives and their followers all to be fed on the proceeds of one rifle, it can be imagined what shooting had to be done and how rich the game stock of the ground must have been. Not only the needs of the stomach but the need for footwear, for hides for donkey saddles, thongs, buffalo, and giraffe hide for trading flour from the natives—all had to be provided by the rifle.

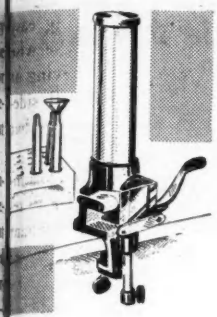
Just to give an idea of the sort of thing: the donkey headman demands 400 skins for donkey saddles. This was when we had some 350 tusks buried and were about to begin the *"shuka"* (retreat).

Or the headman comes and says he is running out of flour. One hundred fifty mouths to feed and the nearest mono market two hundred miles away. This particular trouble was generally cured by nine or ten giraffe, failing them a score or so of zebra, or, more rarely, by a dozen buffalo. That Gibbs certainly had a full-time job to do and I don't think that even now, in 1947, a better rifle could be found for that particular work.

At the same time as I got the .256 I also acquired the first rifle I had made specially for me, a .275 (7-mm.) Mauser by Rigby of London. It was still in the days of the round-nose bullet and luckily for me the ammo was good, sound, reliable German DWM stuff, powder, case, cap and bullet. This was the hottest combination one could possibly have, although I knew it not at the time. Without fault or hitch, missfire or hangfire that little rifle slew some 800 bull elephant besides scores of buffalo, a few rhino and an occasional lion. Never once did a soft-nosed bullet pollute that perfect barrel.

There was one peculiarity about this .275 bullet; it was the only bullet that I ever heard *(Continued on page 3*

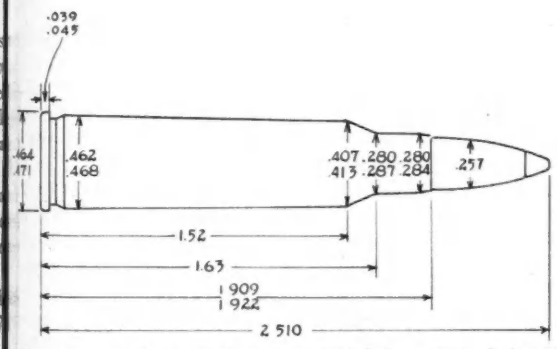




LOADS FOR THE .250

This article on .250 loads is the seventh of an important RIFLEMAN *series covering the more popular American rifle and pistol cartridges. The series so far has included "Loads for the '06"* (RIFLEMAN, *April, page 28), "Handgun Handloads" (May, page 32), ".257 Roberts Loads" (June, page 22), "Loads for the .270" (July, page 38), "Loads for the 7MM." (August, page 40), and "Loads for the .30-30" (September, page 29).*

Preparation of the material for each article was handled jointly by the NRA's Al Barr and the H. P. White Company of Cleveland, Ohio (see RIFLEMAN, *November 1948, page 21). Five rounds of each of the eight loads listed in Table I were checked for average velocity figures and the loads were tested for pressure in a barrel of .250-inch bore diameter, .257-inch groove diameter, 24 inches long, in a Modern-Bond Universal receiver using Winchester copper crushers with variation in length controlled to .001 inch and Winchester tarage tables. Velocities were measured on a Potter electronic counter chronograph. Room temperature was maintained at 76 degrees.*



Drawing shows maximum and minimum critical dimensions of the .250 cartridge. Figures are averages of measurements of ten commercial loads

THE .250 SAVAGE CARTRIDGE made its debut in March of 1915 as a big brother, or shall we say a more powerful substitute, for the .22 Savage High Power which had appeared around 1912. The Savage Arms Company, pioneers in the high-velocity field, were evidently not entirely satisfied with the .22 High Power, or "Imp" as it was called. In spite of optimistic advertising, the Imp did not measure up to its printed reputation as to either accuracy or killing power. Thus we find that in 1913, only a year after the first High Power had appeared on the market, the Savage Arms Company was working out another product of Charles Newton's fertile brain, the .250 Savage, which after two years of experimental work was announced as a 3000 foot-per-second hunting cartridge, a decided novelty for those days.

Savage first brought out the .250 round loaded with an 87-grain bullet at a muzzle velocity of 3000 feet per second, hence it was and is frequently called the .250-3000. A bullet of that weight opposed the ideas of Newton who recommended a 100-grain bullet at about 2800 feet-per-second velocity. Savage, however, was desirous of obtaining the greater velocity afforded by the lighter bullet.

The .250 Savage turned out to be an exceptionally fortunate design and has been a favorite in its field from the beginning. The well-established Savage model 1899 lever-action rifle was the weapon in which the cartridge was introduced. Of course the rifle was not the 6¼-pound featherweight model as furnished in the .22 High Power but was the standard 7-pound model with a 22-inch barrel. The combination gave the hunter an arm having practically all of the advantages of the earlier .22 High Power but with a bullet less susceptible to deflection by twigs and brush and with greater punch on reaching point of impact. Savage also chambered the model 1920 bolt-action rifle for .250 caliber when the gun was added to their line in 1920. At one time the Winchester model 54 bolt action was also chambered for the .250 round. The advantages of the cartridge were further enhanced in 1932 when the Peters Cartridge Company followed more closely the ideas of Charles Newton in the introduction of a 100-grain bullet in .250 caliber. The heavier bullet traveled about 2800 feet per second and corrected many of the faults of the lighter bullet.

Today most hunters prefer the .257 Roberts cartridge to the .250 Savage because of its superior ballistics at longer ranges, but one must remember that lever-action rifles have never been available for the more modern .257 round. Where lever-action rifles are to be used, maximum pressures must be kept considerably below those permissible with bolt-action mechanisms. Such a restriction, of course, is reflected in greater heights of trajectory, lower velocities, and less killing power at extreme ranges though the .250 Savage will always prove adequate for deer and similar types of game shooting. At present all commercial loadings of the .250 are held at pressures safely handled by the lever actions; but, if one intends to use a bolt-action rifle with ammunition of his own brewing, he may safely load up to pressures of 50,000 pounds per square inch.

The present market offers the .250 Savage chambering in the Savage model 99 lever action as well as in the Winchester model 70 bolt action. Both the 87- and 100-grain bullets are available in a number of expanding hunting-type loads.

The .250 Savage can possibly be considered the most flexible cartridge in .25 caliber to load, handling accurately most any bullet within reason. No doubt several things attribute to the fine performance of the cartridge. As commercially loaded, so as to be safe in lever-action rifles, the pressure level is down where good accuracy is most always obtained with any cartridge. In the second place, the 14-inch rifling twist used in

most .250 Savage rifles is about the slowest that can be used with bullets up to 100-grain weight. In fact, some of the longer, more pointed 100-grain bullets are not stable in the 14-inch twist. Usually a bullet seems to give its best accuracy when it is spinning just fast enough to be stable and is not overstabilized, such as would be the condition when used in much faster twist rifling.

For a check on how long a bullet could be and still be stable in the 14-inch rifling twist, we tried the very excellent 100-grain Western Tool & Copper Works cavity-point bullet, which has a six-caliber ogive and a total length of .937 inch. It is an extremely accurate bullet in the .250 Savage, yet the 110-grain WT&CW with exactly the same nose shape but 1.02 inches long tipped noticeably on the 100-yard target. Even bullets of the same general shape, .975 inch in length, do not give as good accuracy in our .250 Savage rifles with 14-inch twist as do bullets no longer than .95 inch length. The new 100-grain Sierra soft point measuring .95 inch long is very accurate in .250 caliber. Naturally, then, the .250 Savage cartridge loaded with longer bullets of 117-grain weight or more is unsuitable for use in barrels with 14-inch twist.

Frequently the .250 Savage is compared with the .257 Roberts. One of the best comparisons is the pressure and velocity figures listed in Table I, which may be compared directly with Table I on page 33 of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, June 1949, which gives similar figures for .257 Roberts loads. From the comparison, and because of the smaller powder capacity of the .250 Savage case, it is obvious that when working to the same pressure level not as much velocity can be had from the .250 Savage cartridge as from the .257 Roberts. The .250 Savage, though, is not far behind the .257 Roberts in velocity when factory loads or their equivalent are compared.

Except for bullet diameter, load 6 for the .250 affords an almost direct comparison with the .257. Using the same weight bullet in a .257 Roberts, with 46 grains of No. 4350 of the same lot number, velocity was 3007 foot-seconds at 43,400 pounds per square inch pressure. In the .250, load 6 gave 2922 foot-seconds velocity at 44,800 pounds pressure, less than 100 foot-seconds below the equivalent load in the .257 Roberts. By other comparisons, almost the same velocity difference can be arrived at for 87-grain bullets in the two cartridges.

To duplicate the velocity obtained in the .257 Roberts, the .250 Savage must necessarily be loaded to a higher pressure, as has been done in load 4 in Table I. A pressure of 52,300 pounds per square inch gave 3000 foot-seconds velocity, but the same powder with bullets of equivalent weight in the .257 Roberts gave 3028 foot-seconds velocity at a pressure of 49,420 pounds per square inch. While load 4 has been used in lever-action rifles, it has too much pressure to be on the safe side since pressure for the .250 Savage cartridge in lever-acti model 99 Savage rifles should never exceed 49,000 pound Such a limit would require a powder reduction for seve of the loads listed, namely, loads 1, 2 and 4. These loa have been used safely in a number of good bolt-action rifle however.

Judging from results obtained with load 5, it would see that DuPont No. 4064 is probably the most efficient powd for the 100-grain bullet in the .250 Savage cartridge. Wi load 5, the velocity of the .257 Roberts commercial 100-gra load is equaled at a safe pressure level.

As a result of these tests, which afford a fair and direct co parison, it would seem the only advantage the .257 Roberts h over the .250 Savage is in using bullets which weigh over 1 grains, a distinct advantage in big-game hunting. The 11 grain bullet in the commercial .257 load, or the heavier 12 to 125-grain bullets in the .257, are much more powerful th a 100-grain or lighter bullet in the .250 Savage. In hunti rifles though, the better accuracy frequently obtained with t .250 Savage, in the hands of an experienced shooter, does so what offset the advantages of more power from the heav bullets in the .257 Roberts.

The .250 Savage cannot be considered the best .25-calib rifle and cartridge for big-game purposes but it has account

Manufacturers' Specifications for .250 Loads

	87-grain Soft-Point	100-grain Pointed Expanding
	Velocity Foot Seconds	
Muzzle	3000	2810
100 Yards	2710	2490
200 Yards	2430	2180
300 Yards	2170	1900
	Striking Energy, Foot Pounds	
Muzzle	1710	1755
100 Yards	1420	1375
200 Yards	1140	1055
300 Yards	910	800
	Midrange Trajectory, Height, Inches	
100 Yards	0.5	0.6
200 Yards	2.5	3.0
300 Yards	6.0	7.0
	Sighting In, Iron Sights, Inches	
100 Yards	2.5 High	2.5 High
200 Yards	On Aim	On Aim
300 Yards	9.0 Low	10.0 Low
400 Yards	26.5 Low	29.5 Low
500 Yards	58.0 Low	62.0 Low

Table I: Velocity and Pressures for .250 Savage Loads

Load	Bullet Weight (grains)	Type	Bullet diameter (inch)	Seating depth (inch)	Charge (grains)	Powder type	Lot No.	Primer	Case make	Velocity	Pressure	Remarks
1	60 Speer	SP	.257	.11	39.0	3031	88	Peters 12	Peters	3682	51,140	Reduce load 2 grs.
2	87 Speer	SP	.256	.27	36.5	3031	88	Peters 12	Peters	3248	54,900	Reduce load 2 grs.
3	87 Speer	SP	.256	.27	40.5	4350	10	Peters 12	Peters	3005	43,080	Good load
4	100 MGS	SP	.256	.25	36.5	4895	27277	Peters 12	Peters	3001	52,300	Reduce load 2 grs.
5	100 MGS	SP	.256	.25	36.5	4064	52	Peters 12	Peters	2969	45,580	Safe max. load
6	100 MGS	SP	.256	.25	40.5	4350	10	Peters 12	Peters	2922	44,860	Excellent load
7	100 Silvertip		.257	.29	39.0	4350	10	Petefs 12	Peters	2747	38,560	Mild load
8	100 Open Point		Commercial							2825	43.980	

for a lot of game, and some well-known and outstanding big-game hunters have considered it their favorite. When a 100-grain .250 bullet is placed properly, it will stop a deer and similar game equally as well as most any other .25 caliber.

The best comparison that can be given of the accuracy of the two cartridges is to say that never have we heard of anyone who has used the .250 Savage in sporting rifles long enough to form a fair opinion say anything but good about the cartridge. For those who have used the cartridge extensively, the .250 is still the favorite in its power class.

One nice thing about the .250 Savage cartridge is that it seems to give very practical accuracy in all rifles, including lightweight sporters. On the basis of that fact, a feather-weight hunting rifle was made up by fitting a 24-inch Pfeifer barrel, turned down to ½ inch at the muzzle, to a very light custom-built Terhaar action. The rifle was fitted with a Himes wild cherry and walnut laminated stock, special solid steel mount bases for a Leupold scope, and Buehler mount rings. The rifle, complete with sling, scope, and mounts, weighs 7¼ pounds. The rifle has already given under one-inch groups at 100 yards and regularly shoots inside 1½ inches with most any full-power or hunting load.

To check further on the cartridge which had done so well in light hunting rifles, a heavy bull gun was made up using a 26-inch Pfeifer barrel of 1¼-inch diameter which tapers to one inch at the muzzle. The results with this rifle and the .250 cartridge have been not only good accuracy but the smallest groups I personally have ever made at 200 yards. The smallest, which probably was a freak, measured .52-inch center-to-center for five shots. In addition to a few other unusual groups, the rifle has given dozens of others under ¾ inch at 100 yards and under 1½ inches at 200 yards. In fact, the cartridge is so good that a number of outstanding bench-rest shooters are considering it, or versions of it, as the next bench-rest gun in .25 caliber.

To indicate that the .250 Savage cartridge is not particularly erratic, we fired eight different powder and bullet combinations one afternoon at 200 yards. Using the Preifer-barreled bull gun, not a single one of the five-shot groups was bigger than 1¾ inches. However, the outstandingly small groups with both the sporter and heavy-barrel gun were made with a 95-grain RCBS bullet .92-inch long with a copper alloy jacket material. The charge for all the best groups was 34.0 grains of IMR 4895, lot 27277, with Winchester 120 primers. Regardless of the fact that the Winchester 115 primer is used in Winchester commercial loads, the bull gun performed better when the 120 primer was used. In fact, nice grouping was not had with any of the loads using the 115 primer. This may be just a peculiarity of the one rifle, which is an Enfield action with a Dayton-Traister trigger and speed lock.

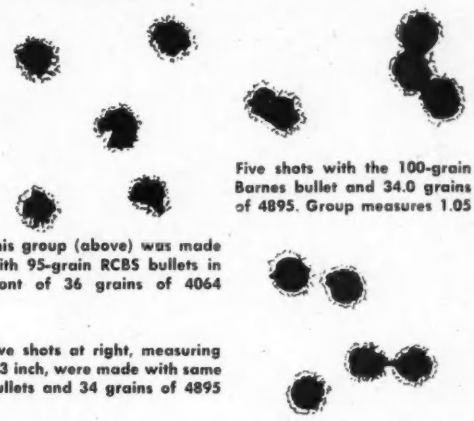
Other good loads tried at the same time were 36.0 grains of No. 4064 and 40.0 grains of No. 4350 with 100-grain Sierra and WT&CW bullets. A thin-jacketed 75-grain two-diameter soft-point bullet made by Roy S. Davisson, Lima, Ohio, in Modern Gun Shop's Banta dies gave very good accuracy using 36.0 and 37.0 grains of No. 4895 powder, lot No. 27277, and Winchester 120 primers. Some of the loads consisted of bullets weighing 100 and 105 grains. These bullets made in RCBS dies were 1.00 inches long and they were stable in the 14-inch twist only because they were made with no lead exposed at the point. Soft-point bullets of the same length are definitely unstable in the 14-inch twist.

One thing that has been noted in these rather extensive group tests with the .250 Savage cartridge is that a ½-grain reduction or increase in powder did not materially affect performance of the cartridge. No doubt flexibility is one of the reasons why the cartridge seems to work well in most any decent rifle, including the lever actions. In fact, it would not be erroneous to say that the .250 Savage is unquestionably the most accurate cartridge ever used in lever-action rifles.

About the only unusual characteristic we can see about the .250 Savage cartridge is that as commercially manufactured the case has perhaps the most abrupt shoulder angle of any commercial cartridge except the .300 Savage. The angle of the shoulder is about 26 degrees 30 minutes, which is in keeping with the ideas of Charles Newton, the designer of the cartridge. Similar design was incorporated in a number of the other Newton cartridges, which for one reason or another are now obsolete. Certainly the .250 caliber is not as popular as some of the other .25's today, and it stands on its merits alone, without other recommendations. Surely without these qualities it would have been obsolete years ago considering the competition it has had. Fortunately, and rightly so, the cartridge in the hands of the bench-rest shooters will help prove what it has been since Newton developed it. It might be noted that the .22 Varminter is nothing but the .250 Savage case necked to .22 caliber, retaining practically the same shoulder angle and body slope. The Varminter is considered one of the finest of the wildcat cartridges, no doubt because it was based on an exceptionally well-designed cartridge case.

In reduced loads the .250 Savage is also quite flexible. Some of the finest groups have been made with midrange loads using gas-check bullets. *(Continued on page 25)*

THESE ARE AL BARR'S BEST .250 GROUPS:



Five shots with the 100-grain Barnes bullet and 34.0 grains of 4895. Group measures 1.05

This group (above) was made with 95-grain RCBS bullets in front of 36 grains of 4064

Five shots at right, measuring .93 inch, were made with same bullets and 34 grains of 4895

The .250 can be accurate, even in a lightweight sporter. Groups above, shown actual size, were made at 100 yards with a .250 that weighs only 7¼ pounds, including scope and sling! Load data is given under each group. Scope used was the 2½X Leupold

Three groups above, all at 200 yards, were made with Barr's heavy .250, using 95-grain RCBS bullets. Though admittedly Barr's best with any caliber, they do indicate that the .25's are potentially as accurate as the best of the .22 wildcats. Powder charges were (left) 34 grains 4895; (center) same; and (right) 33½ of 3031

TOPS FOR '49

A NEWCOMER FROM TEXAS AND A SECOND-TIME WINNER FROM KENTUCKY TAKE THE RIFLE AND PISTOL CROWNS

A TEXAN WHO SHOULD have known better sniffed at the wind and watched it put the horizontal starch into the range flags the day before shooting began for the National Rifle Championships at Camp Dodge, near Des Moines, Iowa. It was Ol' Pappy Thurman Randle, veteran of 25 years on the nation's small-bore ranges. He spouted off to everyone who could pick up even a watt of WHO's 50,000 from Des Moines that he reckoned as how the guy who took young Arthur Cook's small-bore title away from him would be lucky to total 3175 points of the possible 3200 for the two days' shooting coming up, September 3-4.

Then along came a fellow Texan, Robert E. McMains, and nineteen other small borers—including Ol' Pappy hisself—to beat or equal that prediction in what all 200 entries seemed to agree was a pretty good exhibition of shooting, considering the conditions. As far as 1948 champ Cookie was concerned, that was more than enough. All the Washington, D. C., youngster could do beside suffer from hay fever was a 3172 total an ignominious twenty-ninth place in the field.

For Robert E. ('Everyone calls me Eric') McMains (above), who works in the loan department of a Dallas bank, the championship match was a shoo-in cinch. Just as if he lived where the wind blew gusty all the time and stirred up intermittent flurries of rain and hail, the 37-year-old champ shot the eight-match program without a bad score and just waited for the rest of the field to knock themselves out . . . which they did! McMains won the opening event—50-yar iron sights—with a 400-35X and then lost the lead briefly t Adelaide McCord at the end of the second match, but fro then on they couldn't catch him. The Southwest Regional win ner's 3189 total was only two points above that of runner-u Dave Rosenberg, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but it was six point up over third-placer Pete Romcovitz, of West Newton, Pa

McMains' great shooting notwithstanding, the real sensa tion on the grassy National Guard layout was Rosenberg who's still carting school books back in Cedar Rapids and, a seventeen, is one of the real hold-and-squeeze artists of th country. With a little luck he could have won it all and mad Art Cook look like a doddering old man.

At the time all the shooting was going on, though, it reall didn't seem that McMains and Rosenberg were so all-by-them selves. People kept nodding at the fluttering pennants an expectantly waiting for the boom to lower on the leaders. Fo behind McMains, Rosenberg and Romcovitz, the Easter champion, came such tried performers as 1941 national cham pion Ransford Triggs of Madison, N. J.; Laurence Moore Aberdeen, Md.; August Westergaard, Whiting, Iowa; Kenn Johnson, Washington, Pa.; Ralph Travis, the middle state titleholder from Waterloo, Iowa; Kyle Snowhill, Quinc Ill.; and Art Jackson of New York City. They were the on

who completed the first ten in the grand aggregate when tabulations were announced.

While all this was going on, a comparable fight was being decided at Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, for possession of the '49 handgun crown.

When the name of T/Sgt. Huelet L. (Joe) Benner was posted on the bulletin board at Ft. Sheridan, Ill., on the evening of September 4, for nearly three hundred pistol shooters to see, no one who had followed the three days' shooting was surprised. A variety of important factors had figured in Benner's recapture of the National Pistol Championship from Reeves by thirteen points. For one thing, there was that 'dead feeling' which comes over Benner when he's hot. Second, a ruptured muscle in Reeve's back knocked out the one man who might have stopped Benner. Third, Marine Capt. Thurman E. Barrier failed to maintain the pace he set in .22-caliber match firing. Mainly, though, was the fact that when Benner is in form, few can equal his scores.

In the first day of firing, with the .22, Barrier finished one point ahead of Benner in the aggregate, winning the National Match Course event with 289, one point over Reeves and two over Benner. He placed second in the timed-fire match with 197, but it was Barrier's 186 slow fire, three points over Benner's score, which put him ahead.

The center-fire matches were Benner's, three of the four in the program, plus the aggregate, going to him. Reeves won the slow-fire event with a 190 over Ed Walmsley's 188, and placed second with 286 to Benner's National Match Course score of 293. Benner's other winning center-fire scores were 198 timed fire and 194 rapid. Reeves and Roettinger scored 194 also in the rapid-fire match but were outranked by Benner. Barrier failed to place higher than seventh in any center-fire event and scored 851, eighteen points below Benner's 869 in the aggregate. Reeves was second in the center-fire aggregate with 863.

Reeves gained eight points on Benner in the .45-caliber matches, dropping out of the first three in only one event, the rapid fire, and establishing a new national record over the National Match Course with the .45 of 295, a score three points over the previous record of 292 held jointly by Barrier and Reeves, himself. Another shooter finishing well up in the .45 events was M/Sgt. T. R. Mitchell, USMC, who placed second to Reeves in the aggregate with 863, took second with 198 in timed fire to Lt. Col. Walter Walsh's winning 199, and placed third with 192 in rapid fire. Capt. Barrier won the rapid-fire match with 193. First Lieut. J. M. Jagoda, USMC, won the .45 slow fire with 184.

Benner's winning aggregate score in the National Pistol Championship totaled 2592. Reeves placed second with 2579. Third was Capt. Barrier, scoring 2568, while Sgt. Mitchell counted 2555 for fourth. Others who completed the first ten in the aggregate were: 5) Lt. Col. Walter R. Walsh, 2538; 6) P. C. Roettinger, 2524; 7) Charles R. Logie, 2523; 8) CWO Offut Pinion, USN, 2522; 9) M/Sgt. Walter E. Fletcher, USMC, 2519; 10) John Porter, 2515. High woman was Alice Matthews with 2300.

The U. S. Marine Corps Pistol Team, composed of Barrier, Walsh, Fletcher and CWO Mark Billings, won all three team championship events, scoring 1149 with the .22's, 1142 with the center fires, and 1132 with the .45's.

The General Custer Trophy awarded by the Department of the Army to the winner of the National Individual Trophy Match fired with the .45 went to Marine T/Sgt. Walter L. Devine for his winning 281 score.

The Marine Corps School Team from Quantico won the National Trophy Team Pistol Match with 1085. ♦ ♦ ♦

Dave Rosenberg, 17, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, almost took the title

Huelet Benner, 1949 winner in the long standing Benner-Reeves pistol rivalry

are the emily posts of shooting and the substitution of power for skill spoiling american shotgunners?

the 'ALL-PURPOSE' shotgun myth

by nash buckingham

RECENTLY I READ an upsetting paragraph in a monumental tome on shotguns and nettled by its, to me, wholly erroneous premise, I rechecked the statement that there is no such critter as an all-purpose duck gun; that one suitable for fowl above high-timbered bayou bottoms would be, to all intents and purposes, quite inadequate for seacoast ducks. There was subtle intimation that to be mouse-trapped ballistically into using one gun for both kinds of shooting might involve gun caste and open up new outdoor fields for Emily Post.

During the past forty years probably no outdoor magazine gun editor has failed to labor at this mountainous all-purpose gun myth and bring forth a mouse. Through decades such dissertations have become 'musts', however boresome. However, so beautifully do theories of gun weights, balances, borings, patternings, gauges, pellet-ounceages and powder drachms lend themselves to debate that it is perhaps not unnatural for gun scribes to allow their fancies and prejudices full play. In the opening paragraph mentioned there is assumption that a wildfowler who found himself in a kelp-rimmed sand-hide off the New England coast with a shotgun capable of downing mallards at a true forty yards aloft in a pin oak flat in Arkansas, would be not only seriously handicapped but not strictly *de rigueur* with all-purpose purists.

Half amused by then, I raised my eyes to a shotgun sitting in a corner of my office waiting to be packed along on a dove shoot that very afternoon. I have been firing it steadily at everything in the game line except bobwhite quail, in this country and Canada, for exactly twenty-two years this fall. Prior to 1927 I had shot one of the earliest type three-inch Askins and Sweeley over-bored Fox Magnums; using copper-coated shot developed for live pigeon shooting and flight fowling by the Western Cartridge Company of East Alton, Illinois. My 1927 model Magnum has toppled geese, ducks, wild turkeys, pheasants, Huns, all species of grouse and doves from the Rockies to New England and from Canada's prairie province to Texas and Louisiana coastals.

It is a 12-bore, double-barrel, double-triggered three-inch Magnum on a Fox action, hand-bored and built by Burt Becker of Philadelphia. It has heavy 32-inch tubes and weighs, unloaded, exactly ten pounds but balances a pound and a half under that. Its fore-end shell is a trifle wider than normal and is 9½-inches long. Its straight-grip stock measurements are 14½ inches to butt-line, 2¼ at heel and 1-9/16 at comb. Loaded with four drams of propellant and 1⅜ ounces of No. 4's coppered (which load I prefer to the 4¼-1⅝ths), this Becker has 89.10 and 91.05 percentages with right and left tubes respectively, photostatic recordings.

In addition to using it constantly on wildfowl and upland landers, I have broken 100 straight clay targets with it and a number of times, run several straight scores at doubles, and cracked as high as 98x100 at skeet, and I'm no skeet addict. In fact I can break as many skeet targets with the Becker as I can with any other boring in a gun equipped with a spray gadget. Ballistics, weights, balances and patterns to the contrary, including space-writing gun pundits, I seem to get as good or better results with light loads from the big guns with the long chambers as in any others. Nor can I note any difference in acquiring bags. And in goose pits or duck blinds I don't feel undergunned, miss or hit. When calling over pot-holed decoys I never, of course, charge with the

heaviest loads unless the birds are not working and tall flight tries become absolutely necessary. I use either standard duck loads or lighter ones. Under forty yards they are amply satisfactory, which means that well above even ordinary treetops such loads are soundly effective. It takes a really tall tree in any of the nation's wild-fowling 'bottoms' these days to scale 100 feet. Five feet thereover is merely a 35-yard try and your gun is factory-tested at 40 yards. Regardless of gauge, the all-purpose myth becomes a reality of yardage.

By now some outraged reader's chest is beginning to huff like the Big Bad Wolf's as he assigns us to the gun limbo marked 'plum nuts' for insisting that a 12-bore, three-inch Magnum weighing ten pounds is the all-purpose duck gun. Which is reminiscent of the homesick young American telegrapher who signed up to be station agent on a game-infested African veldt. Pretty soon he wired in his resignation on account of "dangerous lions, leopards, elephants, buffaloes and wolves." His boss wired back, "There are no wolves in Africa." To which the agent replied, "cancel wolves but resignation sticks." So you can cancel ten pounds but the other specifications stick with detailed variations.

Let me tell you the case of the mate to that 10-pound three-inch Magnum 12 bore; a single-triggered Becker with identical stock measurements, a 26-inch improved cylinder tubes, weighing seven pounds eight ounces loaded, which I use for quail and, once in a great while, at skeet. Last winter I loaned the lighter Becker to the superintendent of our duck club in Lagrue Bottoms, Arkansas, and he found it admirably adapted for general wildfowling utility when used, as he is capable of so doing, intelligently. One day a visiting sportsman friend, with an arm's length of trap and skeet awards, was asked to retire a .410 gauge with which he was crippling far too many mallards. He was handed the superintendent's Becker (my quail gun) and began acquitting himself admirably.

The problem of the all-around duck gun should be one merely of yardage, which is the same in the bottoms, along seacoast or on passes. The only difference rests in lights and shadows or the fact that tree heights lend estimates of range more difficult to guess across open water. I can take that 26-inch improved cylinder Becker and, by gauging distances carefully, bag limits from any flight. But on a rough and tumble basis, I would certainly feel undergunned. Too, we must consider the matter of recoil. My old and friendly correspondent, the late Fred Kimble, master wild-fowler, stressed his finding that in order to shoot a long way one needs a cannon. So the true all-purpose shotgun should never be a boy sent on a man's errand. Judgment of range definitely places ahead of gun class, regardless of weight or gauges.

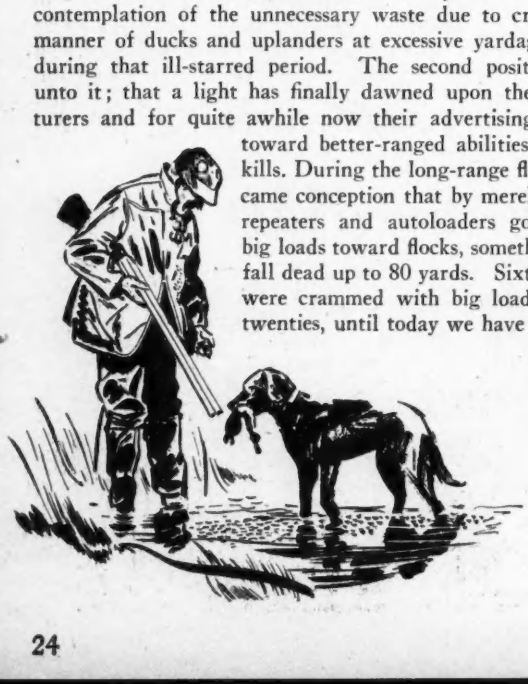
In the fall of 1947 I witnessed a beautiful example of mind-over-matter as to the all-purpose gun. Four of us were dove shooting from the two sides of a corn peninsula jutting sharply out into a heart-shaped plowed field just beginning to pack and set with sown vetch. Across this flat, greening stretch two hundred yards or more wide, a heavy growth of weeds took in. The doves came over these from woodlands beyond and, with the wind on their tails, cut all sorts of pace-changing capers as they jetted that smooth expanse. There were two 12 bores, mine and another chap's ribbed autoloader, a 16-gauge duck gun and a 20 bore. It took me but one glance to realize the necessity for some adroit yardage guessing on overhead targets, and particularly on doves passing over that open. So I quietly paced off fifty steps out in front of my 'stand' in the corn and piled up a cairn of clods. Anything beyond that line of flight I let strictly alone while devoting myself to flyers obviously this side of the tab. My companions took a long time getting their limits. They didn't like to shoot overhead doves for fear of losing them in atrociously thick cover. But they were none too good a match for the birds darting past them out over the field. I watched them shooting at doves that I wouldn't even attempt with the Magnum. Yet they were armed with definitely all-purpose guns.

To bolster the all-purpose gun's case are the newer muzzle gadgets carrying from four to six degrees of choke manipulated

by finger twist or wrench. One click, cylinder; another click, improved; and so forth up to full choke. I won't soon forget my introduction to this type procedure for making an all-purpose gun.

Our party was gunning in North Dakota and one member, whom I'd never met, had along a 12-bore autoloader equipped with a screw-on fire-hose nozzle. He said he had never shot the gun but once, but, having broken 50 straight at skeet with it then, he figured it would do a job on pheasants, grouse or ducks. He had on the gadget marked 'modified'. From his ensuing boasts I conjectured a red day ahead for the ring necks. Suddenly, in an almost bare field along the highway, we sighted a magnificent, full-blown cock pheasant eying us truculently. Our driver braked, my friend hit the highway running and the gorgeous cock took it on the lam three seconds later. At not to exceed twenty-five paces, on the ground, the first shot cut a dust furrow well behind that scurrying mark. The cock then gained altitude and escaped two ensuing blasts unhurt. The shooter glared at his gun's muzzle gadget, yanked a wrench from his hip kit of assorted chokes and began applying a readjustment vigorously. On went another choke degree, but he should have nailed that standing cockbird the first crack with a .410. His alibi? The wrong choke, of course. During the ensuing week's sport he switched muzzles many times and was, for the most part, like an old woman fighting bees. He hasn't been the only gunner I've watched pull those same stunts either. Anger at missing and absolutely no regard for yardage simply muddles their superiority complexes. Barring quail, rail, snipe and woodcock it never seems to occur to them that increasing skill means getting more pellets into hardier species at more distant targets. They are thinking in terms of patterning boards and advertising dope rather than comprehension of gun fit, knowledge of game and competent choke as providing an all-purpose gun. They should just shoot enough to learn to hit something.

This fetches us to two positives in American shotgunnery. The first is that for approximately two and a half decades, which might, insofar as the welfare of shotgun fodder is concerned, be well but dismally known as the 'long-range era', American gunners have been ballyhoo'd into the substitution of power rather than skill afield. Conjecture staggers at contemplation of the unnecessary waste due to crippling all manner of ducks and uplanders at excessive yardage gambles during that ill-starred period. The second positive is like unto it; that a light has finally dawned upon the manufacturers and for quite awhile now their advertising has been toward better-ranged abilities and clean kills. During the long-range flurry, it became conception that by merely pointing repeaters and autoloaders gorged with big loads toward flocks, something would fall dead up to 80 yards. Sixteen gauges were crammed with big loads, so were twenties, until today we have stepped-up



all such, but regretfully we have very little game left. It is not a pretty picture but it very definitely establishes the fact that any well-bored gun is an all-purpose one.

Imprimis, there are probably more gunners today worrying themselves about an all-purpose shotgun than there are worrying about game supplies and the not-happy outlook for their future. It is extremely difficult for many modern hunters to acquire anything like an accurate working knowledge of game and its habits ahead of a dog in attempts at cunning life salvage. It is actually so scarce that few aspiring novices, held down by short seasons and vastly lessened bag limits, will ever get a chance to learn what to expect under given or surprise contacts with wildfowl or uplanders. They are willing and all that sort of thing, but, to put it bluntly, the likelihood for flushes and tries is adversely affected because of lack of game knowledge under pressure and in crises.

For many years now I have watched the rank and file of duck hunters at work continentally. In 90 percent of the national areas where wildfowl can be worked with duck call

Nash Buckingham holds his Becker Magnum, loaded with Super-X 7½s, in readiness while waiting for a grouse to reach proper altitude for a sh

there is, to all intents and purposes (especially in the woods) but one system of sport, if you can call it that. Some hunters make it sport, the rest are mere meat-moppers. They call the birds in, get them down on the water or just off it, and cut them to ribbons. No one knows who kills what. I have watched, by actual count, as high as twenty-three gun goons standing alongside or behind trees firing into a couple of hundred or fifty or twenty ducks, some lit, the others hovering down. This practice, bred from and maintained by commercialism, defeats every principle of gun skill.

I have stood behind gunners armed with shotguns of varying gauges from 12-bore Magnums to 20-gauge pieces, definitely all-purpose duck guns, and heard them lament a miss after miss among fowl not ten paces away. Truth was that they let the birds come too close. By the like, I have watched the same type fire and fire away at overhead flights well beyond the range of the lustiest Magnum loads or bores. One can sit in a duck blind in the bottoms and see flocks of lured-in ducks circle and circle until their wings whisper above the blind brush, and still the users of all-purpose duck guns crouch and squabble about "letting 'em come on in". What they really need are tennis racquets. All of which is cited a

substantiating the all-purpose duck gun as a myth substituted for the required knowledge of gun yardage.

Returning to the matter of gun weights, we stumble upon one of the more preposterous phases connected with the all-purpose duck gun myth. Just take a 30- or 32-inch ribbed autoloader, put the legal three heavy duck loads into it and lay it across some trustworthy scales. Then do the same thing with a 16 gauge and a 20. Repeat the operation with all three bores in pumpguns. You'll be surprised. Why weigh them loaded? Well, that's the way you carry them into action, isn't it? A model 21 Winchester double, single-triggered, bored for three-inch cases, won't miss 8¾ pounds much—loaded. If you wish to be bored stiff, sit and listen to some hulking two hundred pounder beef about having to pack an extra pound or so in gun weight when as a matter of fact he'll lug a quart of likker in his coat and never peep.

In recent years the trend toward lightweight guns has been marked but without any basis of fact toward anything save proof that the so-called American sportsman is getting softer and lazier as innards are required to get out and really hunt. As salve for the drift toward lightweights many claim they can kill as far and as cleanly with the midgets as others do with their more competent gauges and shot charges. A 'class' shot can definitely come reasonably close but as to duck shooting such claims cannot be taken to court and get a directed verdict.

In this writer's book a 30- or 32-inch double gun, weighing close to or right at nine pounds loaded and bored for three-inch cases, which enables the user to charge with either standards or even lighter, is definitely an all-purpose wildfowling weapon whether amid high-tree flighting or across seacoast stool. You can apply the same yardstick for use on heavier uplanders and by the practice of a bit of repression on the rise, do no whit more of body damage with choked pellets than with a modified. And the same thing goes for any 12- or 16-bore autoloader or pump with a muzzle gadget. I happen to own the first trombone action pump (Winchester 1893 model) gun ever to reach Tennessee; a 32-inch solid-ribbed non-take-down. In 1918 the '93 model action was removed and an 1897 inserted. Today, carrying a Poly Choke (one of the earliest attached), my nephew uses it with all-purpose effect on all types of wildfowl and upland game, including bobwhites. If American gunners will devote more time to gun fit and improving the game situation and less to listening to a lot of nonsense about all-purpose guns being nonexistent, the better off we'll be. ♦ ♦ ♦

LOADS FOR THE .250

Continued from page 19

One of the best gas-check loads for the .250 which we have tried is 16.5 grains of No. 4198 powder, which gave near minute-of-angle accuracy at 100 yards with the Bond-Loverin gas-check bullet No. 257616 weighing about 74 grains. Recently in the featherweight .250 we tried the Bond-Loverin No. 257730 weighing 89 grains as cast by Paul G. Mansfield, New Boston, N. H. The first loads tried with the Bond-Loverin and the 89-grain Cramer No. 56 gas check gave good accuracy, again using 16.5 grains of 4198. Loads with the Loverin bullet grouped five shots in one inch at 100 yards. Another .250 fan, W. P. Spofford, the sightmaker, does a lot of experimenting with both full loads and alloy bullets in the .250. One of his favorite light loads, which he uses for squirrel hunting, is 8½ grains of Bulk Shotgun Smokeless with a 60-grain flat-nose plain-base bullet.

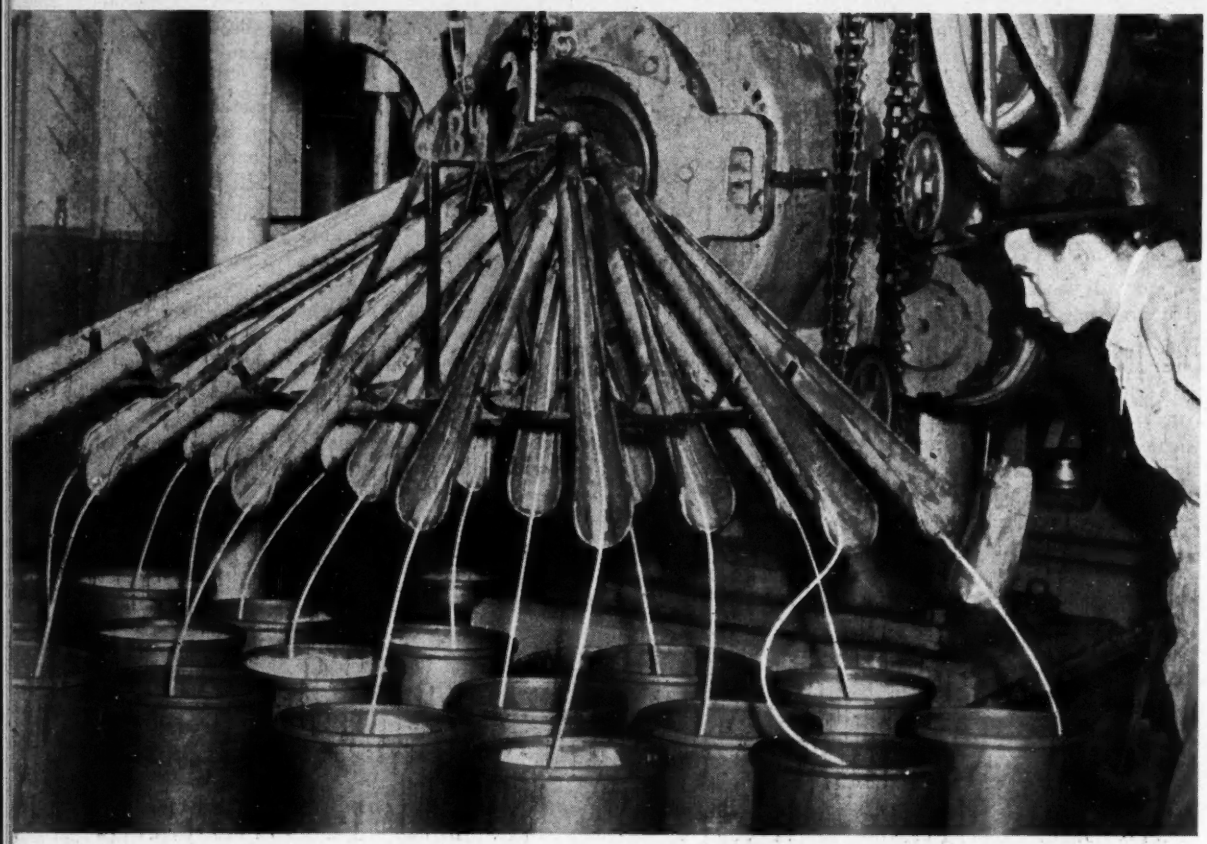
The Cramer Bullet Mould Co., 11625 Van Owen St., North Hollywood, California, and Hensley & Gibbs, 2692 E Street, San Diego, California, have a number of molds casting good bullets for use in the .250. In fact, any bullet which works well in other .25 calibers such as the .257 Roberts will work equally as well in the .250 Savage. The .257 loads given in the RIFLEMAN, June 1949, can be reduced about two grains and used in the .250.

Another load which has worked very well is six grains of Hercules Unique with the 74-grain Bond-Loverin bullet. The same powder charge works well with the 89-grain No. 257730 sized to .2595 inch. Another accurate combination with the 86-grain .25-20 jacketed bullet is 20 grains of Hercules No. 2400. Other recommended .250 Savage loads are 24 grains of DuPont No. 4227 with an 86-grain jacketed bullet and 20 grains of No. 3031 with the 60-grain open-point bullet. Another shooter uses 22.5 grains of Hercules Lightning with the 86-grain jacketed bullet. One combination suggested by still another shooter is the 16.3-grain load of No. 2400 powder with the 87-grain bullet, which should give around 2250 f.s. velocity. Another load worth considering is 16 grains of No. 4759 with the 86-grain .25-20 soft-point bullet. The same load could naturally be used with a gas-check bullet such as the 89 grain. Another favorite load well under maximum is 27.5 grains of No. 4198 powder with the 60-grain open-point or soft-point bullets. Another recommended load with a 90-grain bullet is 6.5 grains of Pistol Powder No. 5, which could be duplicated using the same charge of No. 5066; one reloader uses the combination for squirrel shooting. These are all mid-range loads intended for specific purposes.

While we have not used every one of these recommended light-to-midrange loads, we know they have been selected as the best combinations for a number of different .250 rifles. Our own favorite is still 15 to 17 grains of No. 4198 with most any of the gas-check bullets adaptable to the .250 cartridge.

When reloading the .250 naturally one should pay attention to such things as case length. The case should never exceed 1.912 inch in length. Though the case does not stretch considerably or noticeably when used in bolt-action rifles, strict attention should be paid to length when full loads are used in lever-action.

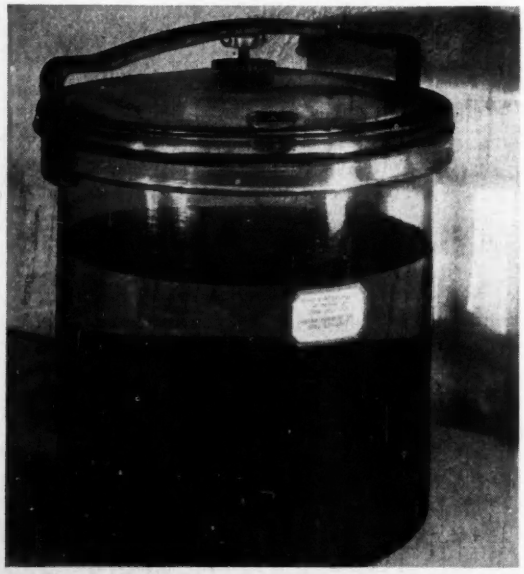
To sum up we might say that the .250 Savage cartridge is outstanding in several respects. We cannot think of another commercial cartridge which, when properly handloaded, will give any better accuracy with light loads and lead-alloy bullets, will perform any better in the average sporting rifle and at the same time come as close as any to having the accuracy necessary for bench-rest shooting. In addition, it gives adequate power in the hands of a good rifleman for big game such as deer and gives the performance necessary in the heavier-barreled guns for varmint shooting. The nearest commercial cartridge that would meet all these requirements would be the .220 Swift, and it would not be adequate for big-game hunting. We would not think of recommending the .250 Savage, however, for any heavy game and because it does not possess any more power than is necessary we do not recommend it as the outstanding cartridge for the average deer hunter. Within its limitations, though, the .250 Savage cartridge will perhaps come as near as any to being the all-around cartridge. ♦ ♦ ♦



'Macaroni press' gives smokeless powder its characteristic shape. This size is for artillery use. Rods will be cut to correct length before loading

MODERN GUNPOWDERS

SOMETHING NEW FOR THE RELOADER . . . A SIDE-BY-SIDE PICTURE COMPARISON OF EVERY GENERALLY AVAILABLE TYPE OF GUNPOWDER



This sample of Hercules 'Unique' powder has lasted for over half a century. Placed under water in June of 1899, it was recently tested in modern loadings, after drying on blotting paper. Test firings showed no deterioration after fifty years of storage.

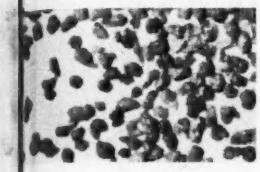
AS FAR as the average shooter is concerned, gunpowder is a completely mysterious ingredient. Manufactured in a bewildering variety of forms and types, and more often than not identified by an apparently meaningless number, modern gunpowder is as confusing as anything in the shooting game. Nothing short of a complete revision of the 'method' of designating propellants will change this puzzling situation. Using today's system the interested reloader can only memorize the names and numbers, try to remember differences between powders that look alike, and hope for the best.

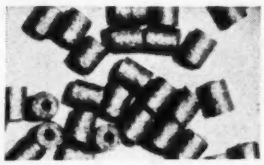
In the meantime, though they provide no easy path through the maze of gunpowder facts and figures, the pictures on these and the following pages will help the reloader in his quest for the right powder for a particular purpose. Shown in side-by-side scale photographs (enlarged four times) are all of the generally available small-arms propellants, from the smelly but dependable black powder of grandfather's day to the newest products of modern laboratories.

The only recent change of note in the time-honored method of manufacturing smokeless powders is the ball-powder process developed by Olin Industries and now employed at the East Alton plant of Western Cartridge Company. By substituting colloidal chemistry for complicated machinery, Western has appreciably speeded and simplified the making of one type of smokeless powder. Though not yet available to reloaders, Western's ball powder is by now loaded in a large percentage of their sporting and military cartridge output. For a detailed look at Western's ball-powder process, turn the page.

For years, duPont factories have provided reloaders with seven basic types of smokeless powder, enough for virtually any contingency. Gradually, as new powders have been developed, duPont has kept up to date by dropping obsolete types, substituting the new. Unfortunately, the resulting confusion of numbers has many a handloader reeling. Here, in as concise a form as possible, is the story of duPont powders—which replaces which, and what particular type of load each powder is designed for.

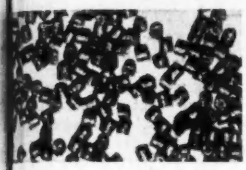
DuPont 80, superseded by **4759**

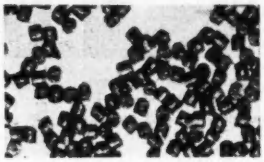




DuPont Sporting Rifle Powder No. 80 was popular for years for reduced loads in rifle cartridges as well as for full loads in several of the larger revolver cartridges, such as the .45 Colt. This old favorite has now been superseded by the newer **Sporting Rifle 4759,** a modern smokeless rifle powder intended for use in low-power rifles with lead or metal-cased bullets. It is not intended for use in pistols or revolvers. For mild loads, the charges formerly recommended for No. 80 may be used.

DuPont 1204, superseded by **4227**



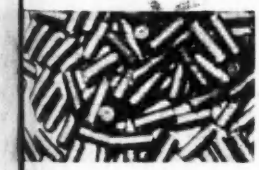


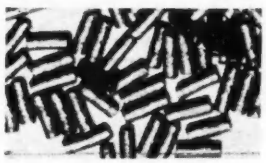
DuPont IMR (Improved Military Rifle) 4227 is a dense progressive-burning nitrocellulose or 'single-base' powder of modern design, best adapted to small capacity cases such as the Hornet. This newer powder replaces the former **IMR 1204** and works well with either lead or jacketed bullets. It can also be used for accurate reduced loads in larger capacity cases.

DuPont 25, superseded by **4198**

DuPont IMR 4198 is similar to the old **IMR 25** and **25½,** neither of which, however, was available to handloaders. These powders, 25 and 25½, were the same except that the 'half' series contained tin to reduce metal fouling. 4198 is a dense nitrocellulose or single-base powder, fairly fast burning, adapted to light bullets in full loads in such cases as the .300 Savage, .32 Special and .32 Remington. Also ideal for gas-check loads in .30-'06, .270, 8 mm, and the like.

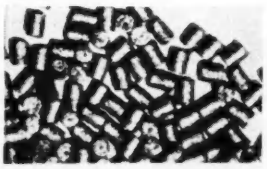
DuPont 17½, superseded by **3031**





DuPont IMR 3031 is a dense nitrocellulose or single-base powder of medium burning speed. It is a modern design to replace the older **IMR 17½.** Being of medium speed, it is quite flexible, and is adapted to a wide range of case sizes, but works at its optimum in cases of medium size. Works well with big-bore cases in which the large bullet diameter permits the powder to move the bullet forward with little effort.

DuPont 1147, superseded by **4320**

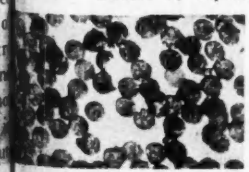


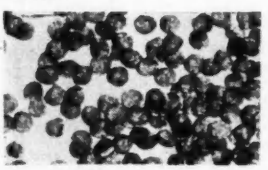
DuPont IMR 4320 is a dense nitrocellulose powder made to replace the older **IMR 1147** which was designed specifically for the .30-'06 cartridge. This newer powder is ideal for the .270, .30-'06, .220 Swift and other military-sized high-intensity cartridges. As it is relatively slow burning, it is not well adapted to reduced or mid-range loads. Short grains feed uniformly through powder measure.

DuPont 15½, superseded by **4064**

DuPont IMR 4064 is a dense nitrocellulose powder which replaces the former **IMR 15½.** Next to the slowest in the duPont series, it is well suited to use with very heavy bullets in the .30-'06 and similar cartridges. In addition it is very good for almost any load in maximum sized or magnum cases, including 'super wildcats' of large capacity, in which it has produced excellent results.

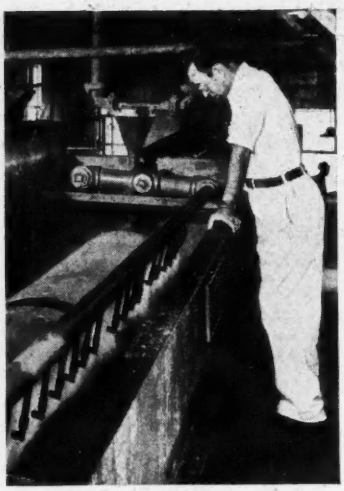
DuPont 5, superseded by **5066**



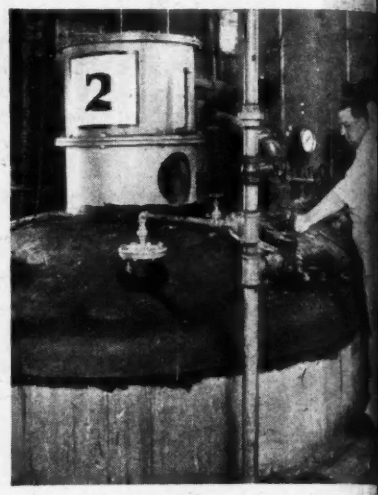


DuPont pistol powder 5066 is a modern dense nitrocellulose or single-base powder specifically designed to meet government specifications in loading the .45 ACP cartridge. Both this and the older **pistol powder No. 5** are at their best when used in full or moderately heavy charges in the larger pistol and revolver cartridges. This is the slowest burning of the regular pistol powders, but of course burns much faster than any of the rifle powders above.

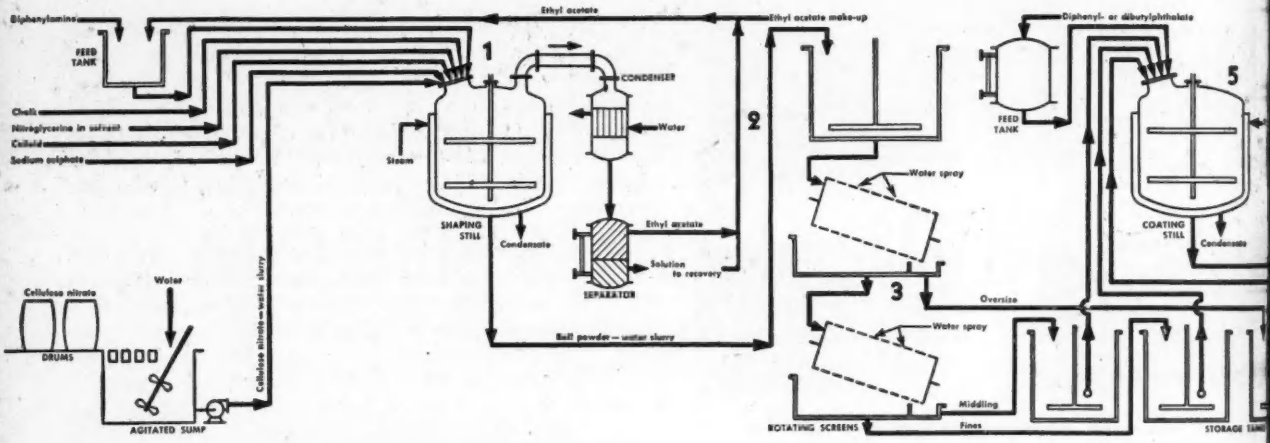
1 First step in manufacture of Western's ball powder is mixing of ingredients in this still. Agitation breaks mixture into droplets, gradually reduces them to tiny pellets



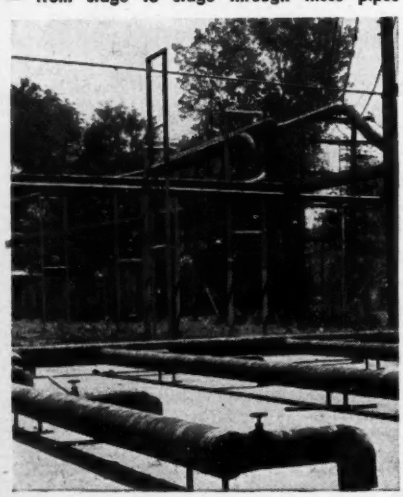
3 Before they are coated, the wet powder balls must be closely sized by means of these water-sprayed screens



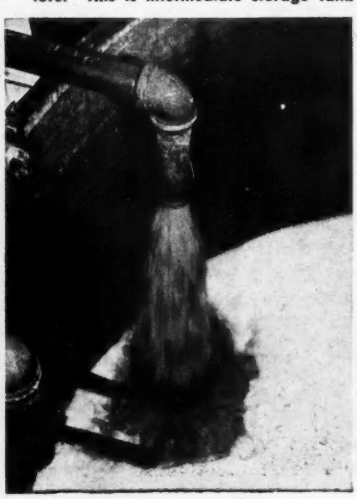
5 A deterrent coating which controls burning of powder is applied to the powder grains in this still. Powder is still being handled in



2 Most ball powder production steps are carried out in water suspension. Mixture is pumped from stage to stage through these pipes

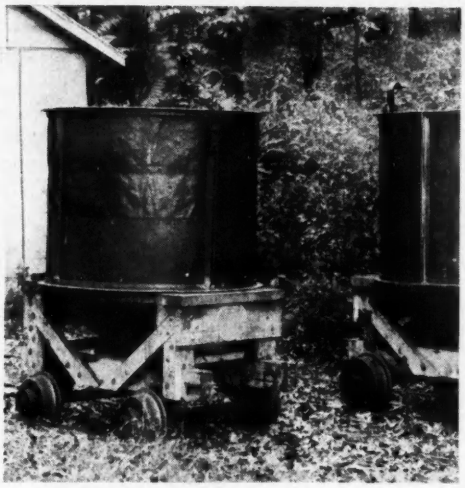


4 Ball powder is handled under water for added safety in most steps of manufacture. This is intermediate storage tank

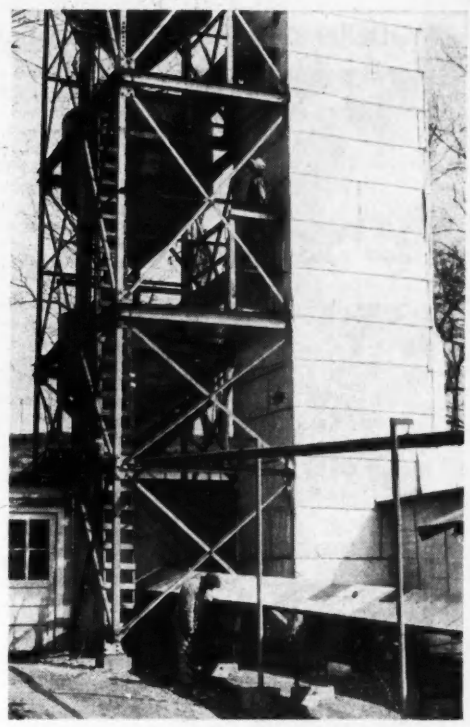


6 Oversize powder grains, still in water suspension, are rolled in this machine to reduce their diameter. Size of balls is important factor in performance of p

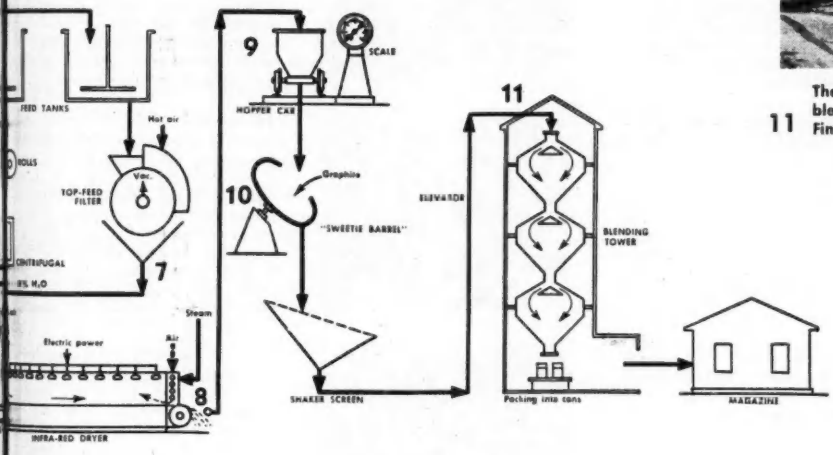
…er is discharged from the …ed filter with only about … percent remaining water



9 These metal-wheeled hopper cars, which are constructed of copper, are used in the handling of ball powder during most of last stages of manufacture

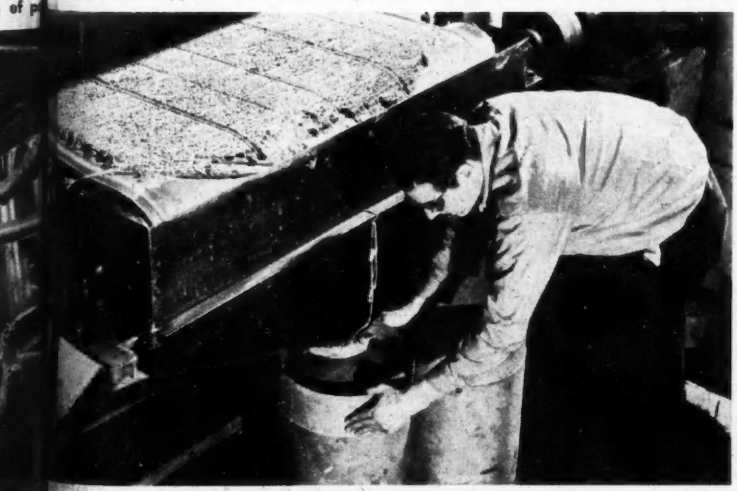


11 The last operation in manufacture of ball powder is blending of several batches in this blending tower. Finished powder is then loaded into cans and stored

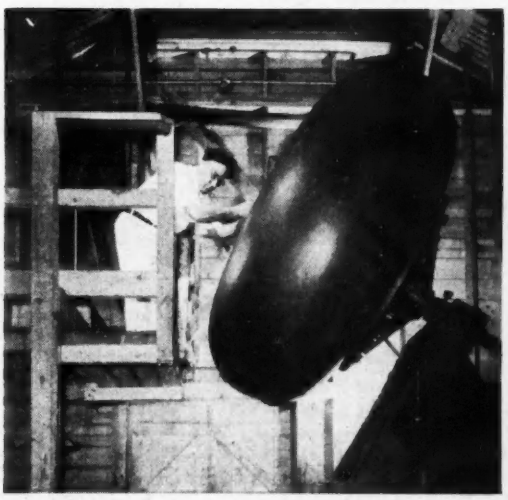


Photographs and flow chart reprinted by permission from "Chemical Engineering", Dec. 1946

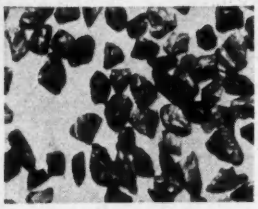
…l drying is accomplished in belt-type dryers, using infra-red radiation. So far, …s have perfect safety record. The only fire experienced was started deliberately to … what would happen! Production of powder was resumed in less than two hours



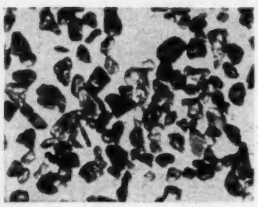
10 The 'sweetie barrel' is used for the glazing of finished powder with a dusting of graphite. This light coating prevents formation of dangerous electrostatic charges



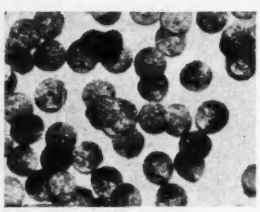
MODERN GUNPOWDERS (continued)



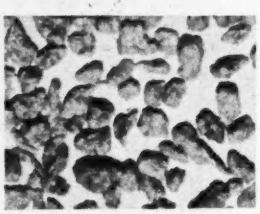
FFg black powder, with a grain size that must pass a 16-inch mesh screen and be retained on a 24 mesh, is suitable for such cartridges as the .25-20 and .38-40. (The last figure is the standard black powder load, 20 grains, 40 grains, etc.) Black powder, though fast burning, is not sensitive to degree of confinement, and does not give dangerous pressures, making it safe for use in older guns.



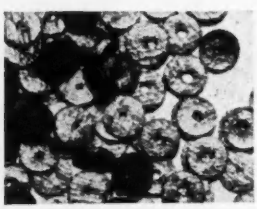
FFFg black powder has a grain size that must pass a 24-inch mesh and be retained on 46 mesh. It is faster burning than FFg, and cleaner burning in small charges. Suitable for use in small revolver cartridges such as .32 S&W Short. According to duPont, it is the most suitable black powder for use in reloading shotgun shells for older guns, except when maximum charges are desired.



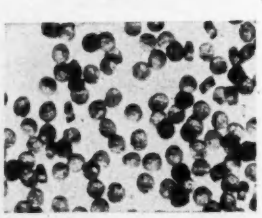
Hercules 'Unique.' This fifty-year-old powder (see page 26) is suitable for both heavy high-velocity handgun loads and for quite light loads in rifles using lead-alloy or gas-check bullets. In such cartridges as the .357 S&W Magnum, it gives very high velocities with lower pressures than are obtained with other powders. Hercules Unique is a very accurate powder for light rifle loads.



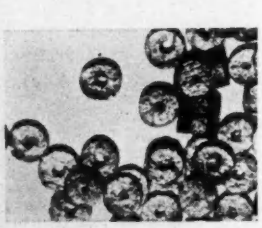
DuPont bulk smokeless shotgun powder is intended for shotgun loading in the same bulk quantity (volume for volume) as with black powder. As the density of this powder is less than that of black, it will be found that while the bulk will be the same, the weight will be less. Hence dangerous pressures will result if this powder is loaded weight for weight with black.



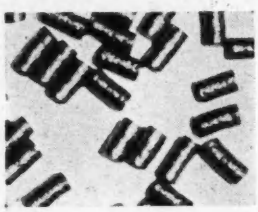
Hercules 'Sharpshooter' is one of the original smokeless powders developed about 1900 to replace black powder in virtually all calibers of rifle cartridges from the .22 WCF to the big .45-90. Since this powder was developed for loading in cases designed for black powder, it gives best performance and burns uniformly at the relatively low pressure levels characteristic of these cartridges.



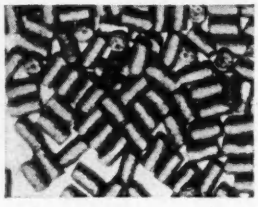
Hercules 2400 is a late powder in the Hercules line and is adaptable to a large range of rifle calibers. It was especially designed for use in relatively small capacity center-fire cartridges such as the .22 Hornet, the .25-20 and .38-40. It is useful also for reduced or mid-range loads in bottle-necked cartridges such as the .30-'06, .270 WCF, .257 Roberts and others of similar design.



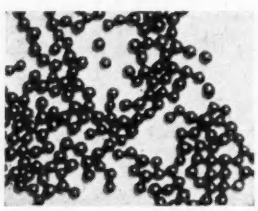
Hercules 'Lightning' has been on the market since about 1900, when it was developed particularly for small-caliber military-type cartridges such as the 7 mm, which were then known as 'high-velocity' cartridges. It is particularly useful for reduced loads, as well as for normal loads in large-caliber, straight-sided cases like the .45-70. An old favorite for .30-caliber gas-check lead bullet loads.



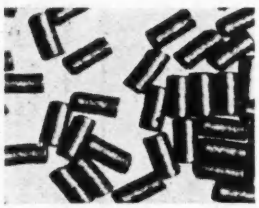
HiVel No. 2, like others of the Hercules line, is a double-base powder containing nitroglycerine as well as nitrocellulose. It is remarkable for its accuracy in the .30-'06, both for the high-velocity long-range loads and for super mid-range loads of about 2200 feet per second. Excellent for full loads in medium to large cases; also for use in the heavier gas-check lead bullet loads.



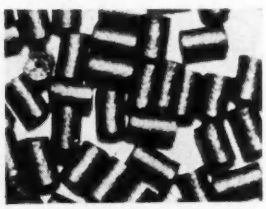
DuPont IMR 4895 was made for Army use, particularly for .30-caliber Service ammunition. Loads vary according to lot number. Most lots seem to be similar to IMR 3031, though the slower-burning lots may more nearly match the performance of IMR 4320 or 4064. This powder is splendid for full loads, and also gives superb accuracy at International Match velocity, about 2200 f.



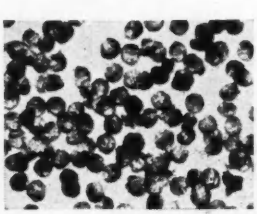
Ball powder for .30-'06 loadings is a wartime development of Western Cartridge, who also produced ball powder for the .30-caliber carbine. Ball powder offers advantages both in ease of manufacture and in uniform burning because the balls lie together in the cases with uniform space between through which the primer flame can pass. Not yet available to handloaders.



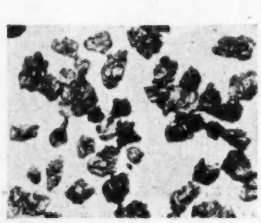
DuPont IMR 4350 is another dense progressive-burning single-base powder, the latest in the DuPont series and the slowest burning. It is ideal for very heavy bullets in large capacity cases. Small cases will not hold enough of this powder, even when it is compressed by the bullet. It is not too critical as to peak pressures, and seems at its best with very little air space in the case.



U. S. .50 caliber machine-gun powder has large grains for use in cases having about five times the ordinary capacity. Generally it is too slow burning to be of any use to handloaders. However, it has been used successfully in the Barnes 6.5 Super Magnum with 200-grain bullet. Not sold to handloaders; the only source we know of is salvaged machine-gun cartridges.



Hercules 'Bullseye' is a dense double-base pistol powder which is splendidly adapted for light and standard loads in pistol and revolver cartridges. However, it can be erratic if over-loaded, hence some other powder should be chosen if supervelocities are attempted. In most handgun cartridges it only partly fills the case, and care must be taken not to throw a double charge.



DuPont Pistol Powder No. 6 is a dense nitrocellulose or single-base pistol powder requiring somewhat lighter loads than the old No. 5, which was discontinued about 19... This powder is well suited for full charge loads in almost all handgun cartridges, but does not burn as cleanly in extremely light loads. The grains are somewhat 'sticky' and may sometimes gum powder measures.

gunstocks and accuracy . . .

Correct stock fit inside and out is half the battle when you're after accuracy. Here, in a significant chapter from 'The Ultimate in Rifle Precision' (The 1949 Yearbook of the Bench Rest Shooters Assn., Sportsman's Press, $4.50) are the ideas of two of America's top gunecraftsmen

Clair Taylor and D. A. Robbins, gunmaking partners of Rixford, Pennsylvania, stand head and shoulders above the crowd when it comes to fine accuracy with modern rifles. Under their partnership name of Taylor & Robbins they have turned out some of the finest wildcat rifles to date. At the bench, the inseparable team have set the top records of 1949, including a .056-inch 100-yard group by Taylor, fired at Oil City, Pennsylvania, on July 23. The following article sets forth in detail their ideas on the making of a stock for a super-accurate bench rest rifle.

☆ ☆ ☆

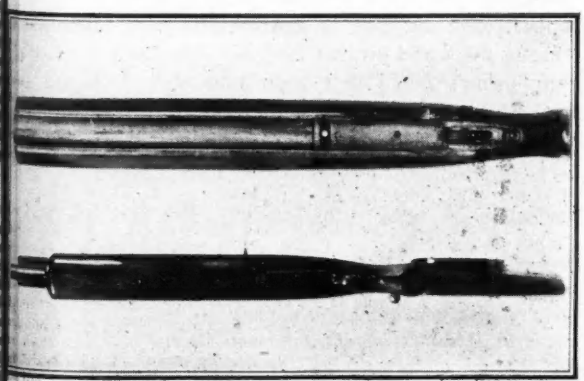
THE MAKING OF A suitable rifle stock requires careful planning. We must consider the customer's desires as to type of stock, and the rifle which he desires placed in it, so that we can select a walnut blank of suitable size and direction of grain. The character of the walnut is also of prime importance. When we receive the blank we realize that it may have absorbed water during shipment. We date all blanks as soon as received, and place a good coat of aluminum paint on their ends which keeps them from checking while they are drying. Then we place the blanks on timbers about five inches above floor level, leave them there for about two weeks, then raise them to about four feet above floor level for ten days, and then hang them from racks close to the ceiling where the heat rising from the shop makes the air warm and dry, where we leave them until we are ready to use them. We try to keep a two-years supply of walnut on hand.

We will now suppose we are going to make a heavy stock for a super-accurate bench-rest rifle. The blank for this type of stock should be 2¾ inches thick. The grain should be straight from the pistol grip to the front end of the forearm, or it may incline slightly upward. We never use a blank where the grain inclines or 'feathers' downward from rear to front towards the bottom of the forearm. If it feathers downward it will warp away from the barrel, but if upward it will warp upward when we cut into it and remove strains in the wood, and we can regulate the pressure of the barrel groove on the barrel, or if it warps after it leaves us it can be re-bedded later.

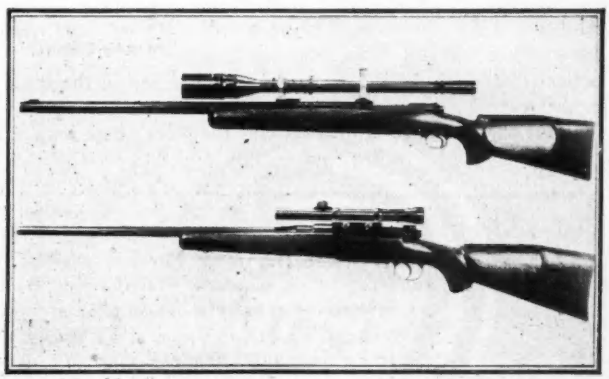
We then square surface the blank on the top and sides, cut it out with the band saw to the desired shape, and then scribe a center line on top, bottom and ends. Supposing the stock is to be for a bolt-action rifle, the front guard screw hole is then located and drilled from the bottom to the top using a ¼-inch drill, spending all the time necessary to get this hole exactly central on the scribed top and bottom lines. This hole is very important because all inletting is controlled from it. If it is not in the right place the trigger guard will not come in line with the receiver when the final inletting is complete. This hole is also a guide as to where the recoil shoulder should be. We have templet actions which we use for the rough inletting as we never take the barrel off the customer's action in building his gunstock.

The recoil shoulder is then mortised out, and the rear-guard screw hole position is marked to exactly center the scribed top and bottom lines. We use long guard screws with heads removed to position the receiver which will then lay flat on the blank. We then clamp the receiver to the blank and mark out its shape with the aid of a small penknife. The blank is then laid aside for a few days and checked to see if it has gone out of shape any as the sawing and shaping it has received so far might possibly have released a certain amount of strain in the walnut.

We then put the blank in the inletting machine and inlet the action to within ⅛ inch of its final position, setting the barrel and action to within half their final inlet depth. For a bench-rest rifle, or one where the finest accuracy is desired we prefer not to mortise the stock out for the magazine, but to leave the blank solid, which of course makes the rifle a single shot. We



Above: Barrel and receiver groove of completely inletted bench rest stock. Note omission of magazine cut. Below: Bottom view of bench rest rifle stock



Above: A typical Taylor & Robbins bench rest rifle, with stock dimensions to fit the owner. Below, for comparison, is a Taylor & Robbins big game rifle

Clair Taylor rough inletting a bench rest stock blank. Stocks are machine inletted to within about one-eighth inch of the final inside dimensions

believe we were the first stockmakers to omit the magazine cut and leave the stock solid here. We have made stocks in this manner since 1934, and we believe that their records on the bench rest have shown that superior accuracy results.

We next place a cork in the front guard-screw hole and fill the action and recoil shoulder mortise with (a mixture of) one part turpentine and six parts of linseed oil, and let it set for three or four days until the oil is well into the stock. Then we place the blank in the inletting machine again and inlet for the barrel channel in the forearm to within about ⅛th inch of final depth. The front end of the barrel channel is then corked and the channel and action mortise are poured full of oil and let set for about a week until the wood becomes settled, and we then finish the inletting to within a few thousandths of an inch. On the Winchester and Enfield actions the magazine is a separate piece, but on the Springfield and Mauser actions we cut the magazine off the guard when the rifle is to be stocked without magazine. The trigger guard is then inletted, and the rear guard screw hole is drilled very precisely. If a third guard screw hole is required, as with the Mauser action, we drill that at the same time. We think we were the first stockmakers to use three guard screws with the Mauser action, which helps to stiffen the action, particularly for heavy and long barrels. At this time also we finish cutting the seat for the receiver recoil lug, which must be very tight, with 100 percent bearing, and the bottom of the receiver must also bear perfectly flat and level in its recess in the stock from the front of the receiver to the rear guard-screw hole. If all these bearings are perfect there is no need to have an unsightly gap in the stock in the rear of the top tang.

Old record was this .187-inch 100 yard group by Clair Taylor

Then the buttplate is inletted and the stock shaped up to the measurements and rough shape desired by the customer after which we let the stock set for some time. Then we finish the outside . . . smooth, lay the grain with water in the usual manner, and then put on one coat of linseed oil followed by one of our fillers of which we have a number mixed according to the different types of walnut. Then we begin the final oil finish which takes a lot of time, and finally we use pumice stone to take off the excess oil.

When the stock is thus nearly finished we complete the inletting by hand, which previously had been machine inletted to within a few thousands of completion. In doing this we inlet the action and barrel down to where, at the node or still place of the barrel vibration, it will take a three- or four-pound pull to force the metal away from the stock when the guard screws are tight. Many barrels have their peculiarities of bedding. Most of them will shoot best with tight bedding, but occasionally one has to be relieved more. Under no circumstances should the wood be relieved until a thorough test has been made for accuracy. To make this test a piece of paper should be put under the receiver at the rear of the recoil shoulder. This will raise the barrel from the wood and tell the story as to whether the barrel will shoot best with the bedding tight or relieved. A good many stocks have been ruined because the customer relieved the barrel groove with the thought that the rifle would shoot better.

For bench-rest shooting we make the forearm from thirteen to fourteen inches long measuring from front guard screw regardless of where the node of vibration comes. If this is towards the rear of the forearm then the barrel groove is slightly sanded forward to its tip, but there should be no unsightly gaps along the sides of the action or barrel. . . .

The same general process is used in making a stock for a varmint or big-game rifle, but in this case of course the stock is mortised for the magazine of a bolt-action rifle. With an inletting machine we can inlet either the trigger guard or the receiver on the first operation of the inletting. If an inletting machine is not available and the inletting has to be done with chisels and gouges the trigger guard should be inletted on the first operation. We have built over 400 rifle stocks with the old chisel-and-gouge method, and have found that on most bolt actions it is best to inlet the trigger guard first.

We believe that the heavy 'bull' stocks that we have built for bench-rest rifles, with the width, shape and contour of the forearm running back past the receiver, and thickening and stiffening the stock at the receiver, were the first of this type ever built. We also think that this type of stock with the magazine omitted materially increases the accuracy and reliability of the rifle. Several of these stocks, made as described, were set aside in gun cabinets while their owners were in the armed services for some years, and on returning their owners found that their rifles shot with the same fine accuracy, and also held the same zeroes as before the war.

NEXT MONTH: *How far does your .25-caliber wildcat bullet drop at 100 yards? Two hundred? Five hundred? Californian Bob Hutton sparkplugs a group of wildcat owners in tests of a baker's dozen wildcat cartridges, to give you authoritative data on trajectories at all useful ranges. To round out the issue, Marine Captain Thurman Barrier on target shooting with the Garand . . . Fred Seguin on identifying the calibers of foreign arms . . . more of Al Barr's loading dope, this time for the popular .348 . . . and the concluding installment of W. D. M. Bell's prologue to 'Karamojo Safari'.*

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SCOPE DOPE for the WOODS HUNTER

By LEONARD R. MAINE

AFTER THREE HOURS of drive hunting for several deer we thought were cornered in a quarter-mile patch of thick, brushy woods, nothing had happened. Alvin Yeaton of Hillsboro, New Hampshire, a famous deer hunter, his son Ady and I had been stationed 200 yards apart along a power line, covering the escape routes with scope-sighted .30-'06 rifles. Two of our boys, Vernon Maine of Keene, New Hampshire, and Robert Sipprelle of Hillsboro, were in the brush trailing the deer with the help of a new snow. Ady and I decided to walk along the power line to Alvin's station.

Ady and I had hunted together too long to talk about our mutual disappointment over the results of the morning's hunt. Others in our group had killed deer. Neither of us had fired a shot. This was our last day.

Ady waited while I lit my corncob pipe. The smoke tasted good. The operation was familiar; still no need for talking. We continued down the power line.

A twig snapped in the brush. Suddenly the woods seemed full of deer scurrying for hiding places in the brush. This was it! Ady and I were in kneeling position, side by side, scopes on the brush. "Right and left, Ady", I muttered, knowing full well the penalty for wasting precious seconds and good venison by having two hunters kill the same deer.

The deer were well hidden and in no hurry. Deer are less afraid of a kneeling than a standing man. An aligned rifle blends into the stump-like silhouette of a motionless kneeling hunter.

Two deer moved in my scope field; a big buck sneaked straight left for Ady, and a smaller deer, appearing to be a good sized doe, slightly right and away, for me. Ady's rifle bellowed, the sound blending with the snucking slap of his working bolt. My crosshairs were on a clear spot ahead of the smaller deer. The trigger was ready for the final press, when the head of a huge buck swung nearly to my crosshair intersection and immediately back behind a hemlock screen. Several opportunities to kill the smaller deer as it skulked slowly away I let go.

"What's the matter, Len", Ady whispered.

"Big buck, Ady. I'm waiting him out", I replied.

"I ain't moving, unless you need help", was Ady's reply, indicating team shooting of the first order.

The smoke from my pipe curled up and lent a relaxing touch to an otherwise tense situation as I knelt in a comfortable position. The buck was behind a thick but low hemlock screen. Occasionally I could detect a slight movement. There were two small brush-free openings waiting for the shot if the buck went right. On the left were several openings which looked fairly clear, but careful examination through the 2½ power scope showed some small brush with which the bullet might have to contend. The buck's best chance to get away was to go straight back. Watching such a situation through a scope is like seeing a scene on a movie screen.

As the seconds passed the pressure began to build up. I was tempted to shoot at the slight movement I was continually noting. After all, I knew the buck was there because I had seen him. An unhappy thought crossed my mind. Perhaps the big fellow had sneaked away and the movements were made by a man. A wise old buck can move like a ghost. I resolved to shoot only when I saw the deer!

He came out to the left, skulking slowly, very low to the ground. The cross hairs found my favorite spot, well back on the shoulder blades and under the shoulder loins. Much to my surprise the shot knocked the buck down and out of sight into the brush.

Ady and I ran in fast. My buck was a big battle-scarred grey fellow with one of his eight points broken. He gutted 205 pounds. The 180-grain controlled-expansion bullet had opened on two pieces of brush and had struck through the tenderloins and into a rump, a deflection of 18 to 20 inches from point of aim.

Ady came up pulling a nice young eight pointer (18

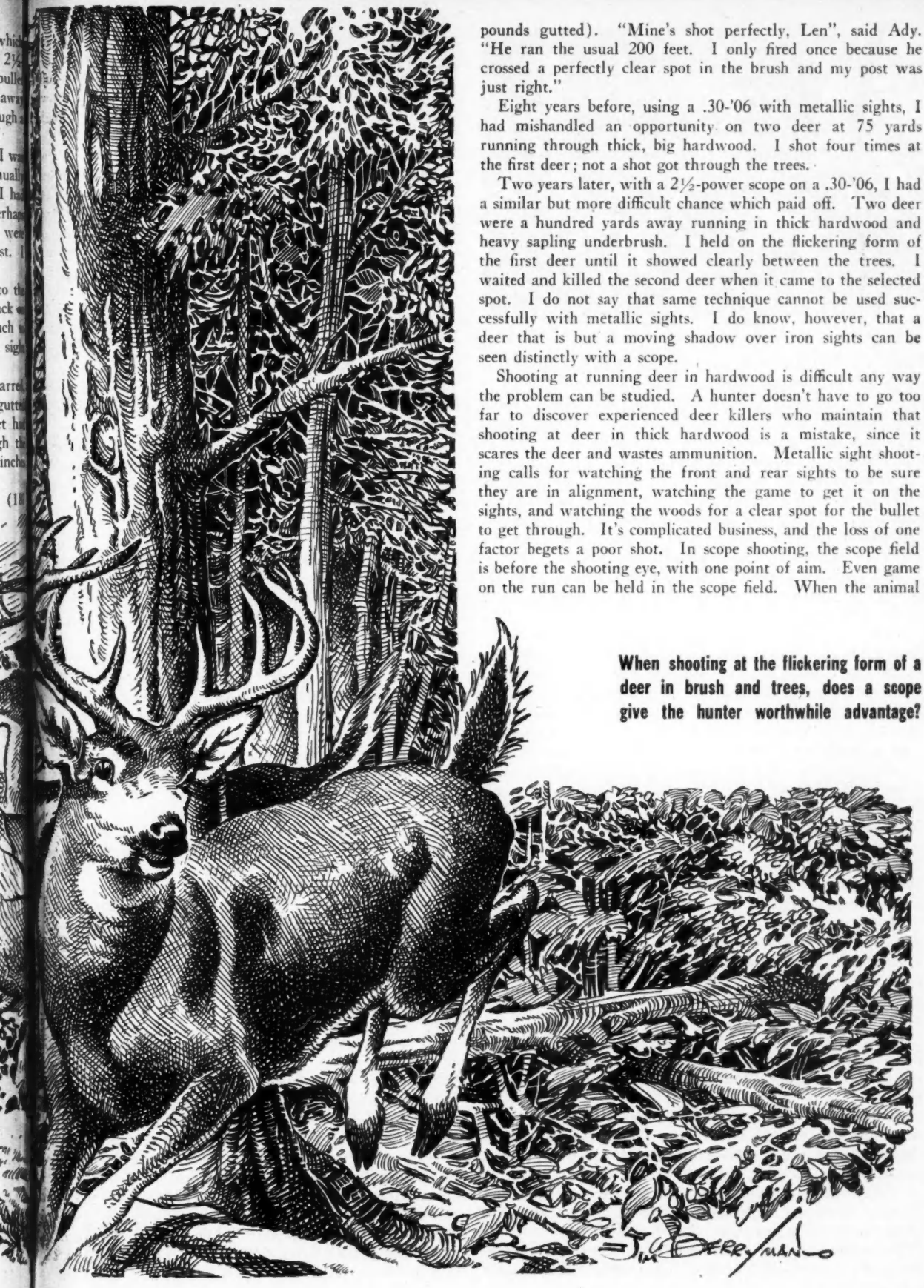
pounds gutted). "Mine's shot perfectly, Len", said Ady. "He ran the usual 200 feet. I only fired once because he crossed a perfectly clear spot in the brush and my post was just right."

Eight years before, using a .30-'06 with metallic sights, I had mishandled an opportunity on two deer at 75 yards running through thick, big hardwood. I shot four times at the first deer; not a shot got through the trees.

Two years later, with a 2½-power scope on a .30-'06, I had a similar but more difficult chance which paid off. Two deer were a hundred yards away running in thick hardwood and heavy sapling underbrush. I held on the flickering form of the first deer until it showed clearly between the trees. I waited and killed the second deer when it came to the selected spot. I do not say that same technique cannot be used successfully with metallic sights. I do know, however, that a deer that is but a moving shadow over iron sights can be seen distinctly with a scope.

Shooting at running deer in hardwood is difficult any way the problem can be studied. A hunter doesn't have to go too far to discover experienced deer killers who maintain that shooting at deer in thick hardwood is a mistake, since it scares the deer and wastes ammunition. Metallic sight shooting calls for watching the front and rear sights to be sure they are in alignment, watching the game to get it on the sights, and watching the woods for a clear spot for the bullet to get through. It's complicated business, and the loss of one factor begets a poor shot. In scope shooting, the scope field is before the shooting eye, with one point of aim. Even game on the run can be held in the scope field. When the animal

When shooting at the flickering form of a deer in brush and trees, does a scope give the hunter worthwhile advantage?



comes right on the reticule, the trigger is finish pressed; that is all there is to it, if you've picked a bush-free place.

It is a great deal easier to pick the right spot with the help of the magnified field of the scope. Last year a nice spike buck stopped in thick hardwood and brush in front of Alvin Yeaton. The deer was well screened, but in studying the situation through his scope and by moving slightly, Alvin could see most of the deer's head as it turned to watch its back trail. Making sure there was no brush on his point of aim, Alvin held the crosshair intersection just under the deer's eye and fired. The deer went down to stay.

This kill sounds simple. Behind it was Alvin's great experience in doing exactly the right thing, in the right way, and at the right time.

Two years ago Alvin, Ady, Les Pease of Somerset, and I were hunting the Knob, across from Walt Murdough's farm on the Old County Road in Hillsboro, New Hampshire. It was a dark overcast day and we had located deer but weren't smart enough to get one in our sights. Near the end of the day Ady and Alvin were holding stands on deer crossings well up on the steep side of the Knob. Les and I were brushing through some pine, old apple trees and thick blowdowns below Ady. Whether or not we started the deer we don't know, but Ady opened up a serenade of six well-timed but rapid shots with his .30-'06. When Les and I got to him, he was standing on a high rock looking through his scope into thick underbrush which was overshadowed by numerous tall white pines. The area he was concentrating on was some hundred yards away.

"I saw a movement under them pine", explained Ady. "I put my scope on it. It was a big buck so I started blasting. Everytime I saw a flash of white in the scope, I pulled a little ahead and let go. I didn't dare leave here because if I got down, I couldn't see anything. I can't see much anyway under those dark pines without my scope."

I took Ady's position and he and Les went in to try to find the deer. It was fairly light where I was standing but it was really dark in the thick brush under the wide branching trees.

A big, young, extremely heavily antlered eight-point buck was found. Ady had made four hits out of six shots while bush shooting in poor light. The buck's antlers are now in Ady's living room.

"I was lucky to get him", said Ady modestly. "If it hadn't been for the scope I wouldn't have been positive it was a deer, to say nothing of trying to hit what I couldn't see."

Three years ago, off the Beard Brook Road near the site of the old Sanitarium, I started a deer off a thickly wooded pine knoll. I went to my belly, hoping for a shot under the pine branches, but got nothing but a flashing glimpse of a deer's feet. It went downhill and Ady and Ivan Maine from Manchester, New Hampshire, took turns trailing it in the snow. Ivan was trailing as Ady and I compared notes as to what to do next. During our whispered conference there came the dull thud of a heavy rifle shot.

"Sounds like the Old Man", grinned Ady. "Maybe we'd better look up another deer. Ever notice how a bullet that hits something doesn't seem to make much noise?"

We went to the Old Man and found the boys pulling out a fat three-pointer. Alvin pointed to an extremely thick growth of hardwood. "First I saw a movement", said Alvin. "But when I put my scope on him I knew it was a deer all right. I could see hair and different parts as he sneaked along. I picked the most open spot I could see and let go. I ran down a ways and he didn't come along, so I figured something had happened to him."

An examination revealed that the 180-grain, controlled-expansion bullet had struck brush, had opened and hit the deer about six inches over point of aim.

Alvin's kill this year was not in the brush but there are circumstances pertaining to it which are worthy of consideration for a hunter weighing the possibility of equipping his rifle with a scope.

Alvin drove up to the Alger Farm in Deering, New Hampshire. As he parked his car, two hunters came out of the woods, got in a truck and drove away. He picked his rifle from the car, and with it unloaded walked to a stonewall and looked up one of Alger's long open fields. Three hundred and thirty yards away (paced afterwards) a huge buck stood near the woods. Alvin put three cartridges in his rifle, leaned against the wall and carefully put a bullet in the deer's shoulders. The buck reared but didn't go down. It started to amble straight out into the field towards Alvin for about thirty yards and then lay down. Alvin approached it carefully, having full knowledge of how dangerous a wounded buck can be, yet thinking it probable that the deer was bleeding to death. When he got close, the deer saw him, jumped up, walked slowly about ten yards, and lay down again. Alvin doesn't believe in wasting good ammunition, and he strongly objects to unnecessarily shooting a deer full of holes. However, after studying the big fellow for a moment, he finished him with a shot low in the neck. The deer weighed 23[illegible] pounds gutted.

If you have seen a deer on a gold bead sight at 350 yards, as I have, you know that it looks like a mosquito at that distance. Such long-shot chances in the open are rare, but the law of averages says such chances happen occasionally even though you are hunting in country where deer are usually found in the woods. A scope, carefully adjusted, on a rifle just as carefully sighted-in, makes such a shot much easier, and venison tastes as good killed at over three hundred yards as it does at fifty.

These deer kills as made by Ady, Alvin and myself are not, perhaps, worthy of detailed description, except for the fact that the use of the scope made the kills possible, or at least more certain. All three of us have used, in succession, open sights, peep receiver sights, and various scope sights. We know that a good scope, in proper adjustment, makes for more frequent, surer and cleaner kills. Ady and I prefer the flat-top tapered post reticule. It can be seen longer in poor light conditions than the crossshair. We sight-in for six o'clock at 200 yards with our .30-'06 rifles. The Old Man sticks to a medium crosshair. When we brace him about the face

that our posts can be seen quicker and longer in poor light than the crosshair, he replies, "Heck, sometimes I don't see my crosshairs anyway, I just get the son of a which in the middle of the scope field and let her go". I might point out that the scope on Alvin's rifle was very carefully installed with the center of the field on point of aim at 200 yards.

Clear areas can be picked out through brush better with the flat-top tapered post. Crosshairs seem to bother me a bit in this situation. A horizontal crosshair doesn't bother much, but I prefer not to have it.

One hunter known well to me missed many, many shots at running deer with metallic sights because of excitement. He apparently lost track of his rear sight and habitually fired over his target. A scope did a great deal to settle the chap down.

Many hunters with metallic sights on their rifles carry binoculars or a monocular to examine closely areas or objects which attract their attention. It is interesting to watch experienced scope hunters use their rifle scopes for this purpose. A brown patch under a pine on a side hill, some movement behind a brush screen, someone monkeying around the car, all emerge for clearer identification through the rifle scope.

The shadowy form moving in deep brush is much safer, if it happens to be a man, if an inexperienced hunter has to see it through a rifle scope before he can align his rifle. I consider a man with a scoped rifle to be a safer hunter to have in the brush around me. He is much more likely to see what he is shooting at before he pulls the trigger. Also, colors come out clear and sharp in a scope.

I have heard, many times, objection to a scope sight because snow gets on the lenses and "you can't see through the sight". I might say that snow on any rifle sight doesn't help hunting efficiency. In the eight years I have used a rifle scope, the rifle has never been to my shoulder without the reticule being clear enough for a shot. It takes a lot of dirt, rain or snow on a lens to block its usefulness. In an emergency, a quick wipe with a gloved fingertip, or even a bare thumb, will remove sufficient snow to see what is going on through the glass. Blowing off the lenses is not so good. It may temporarily mist up the glass and make trouble. The only time I ever threw my rifle on a deer and couldn't see my sights was when a piece of snow got into a receiver peep sight and froze without my noticing it, costing me a snap shot at a nice deer. Quickly removable lens protectors are available for scope users who want to take no chances. As for me, I worry less about the snow problem with a scope than I would if I were using a receiver peep sight.

In the brush and woods, a mule-like ear seen beside a covering screen of pine or hemlock; a silhouette which darkens slightly a stand of thick sapling hardwood; a low shadowy movement in an alder swamp, are the clues which, if observed and handled correctly, may develop into a shot at a whitetail.

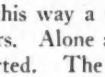
A good scope will help you identify a deer and help you see its position. It will help you select a brush-free avenue for your shot, and offers a single sighting point to help you put the bullet where you want it. A well-adjusted scope sight on the deer rifle adds many pleasures and advantages to hunting the whitetail in woods and brush. It increases chances for success. Its use guarantees cleaner and surer kills, and safer hunting. Skillful use of a scope will make you a better shot. ♦ ♦ ♦

KARAMOJO SAFARI

Continued from page 16

whining away after killing a large bull elephant with the brain shot. It may have been merely coincidence but the fact remains that I never heard that whine from any other bullet and I used .256, .303, .318, .350, .450-400 and .416 for similar shots, admittedly on many less numerous occasions.

The boys had strict orders to bring me any bullets they might find when hacking out the tusks or when exploring the interior of the carcasses for fat, which, when rendered down, they mixed with their millet porridge and drank down.

As time sped on I collected in this way a most interesting bucketful of used bullets of all calibers. Alone among them the DWM 7 mm. remained undistorted. The .256 bent and presumably altered course, thus:  The .303 suffered from mushroom nose; so did the .318, thus: The .350 showed no distortion but I had to give up this weapon very early in its career owing to the excessive length of the bolt travel. It was fatally easy to reinsert the spent case instead of a fresh one from the magazine.

As my experience of the brain shot increased I began to study the possibilities of reaching the brain of those exasperating elephant that so often presented their fleeing sterns to you. I noticed that sometimes they sort of tacked away from you, presumably so that they might see their pursuer out of the corner of their eye.

There seemed to be nothing to stop a bullet from reaching the brain except the mass of the neck muscles. These would have to be traversed by the bullet at a pretty acute angle. Not only the muscle but the hide itself would present a very sloping entry for the bullet. Luckily the neck skin is not so heavy as in other parts, and it seemed to be a shot worth trying.

If the ground is clear enough what you do is this. Say, for example, you have closed with three bull elephant tree browsing gently along. You range alongside without difficulty. You kill the first one with an easy shot to the brain. You get a fast one into a head that turns enquiringly towards the sound of the shot and he goes down. But the third one flees, you after him.

As he goes his head swings slightly from side to side so he can see what is after him. The great ears are back but not flat on the side of the neck; the pace is hot, to begin with anyway. Round about twenty miles per hour, no matter what the terrain may be like. If it is thorn bush or high grass you simply have no choice, you must follow his trail. But if it is open bush you may be able to range off a bit to one side while still keeping your station behind him. If you can do this—and you must be fairly speedy—the shot comes a lot easier. It consists of a sudden stop on your part, just as you see the head begin its sideways movement, and a lightning shot directed towards the center of that enormous skull, completely ignoring what obstructions the bullet may encounter on its flight. Only thus with perfect timing can this shot be brought off. A difficult shot for a novice. *(To be concluded.)* ♦ ♦ ♦

THE OLD COACH'S PAGE

MUSCLES, TENSION AND HEARTBEAT

Though the bench-rest shooter can use supports and sandbags to hold his gun while firing, deliberately avoiding unneeded contact with the piece, a competitive shooter is not so well off. He must grip his rifle firmly with both hands, holding it against his cheek and shoulder in a position which requires muscular and nervous control if good scores are to result. A discussion of the physiological problems involved in smallbore match shooting may be of aid in understanding and overcoming the problems involved.

IT WAS SOME EIGHT months after I began small-bore target shooting that I found myself in the unaccustomed position of being just about to shoot a clean target. The wind was steady, my digestion was good, and my conscience was clear when I suddenly realized that I had three perfect bulls at fifty yards with a pinwheel X on the fourth. Feverish excitement began to mount in my bosom as I saw myself winning a match with my first clean target. More and more was I aware of the pounding in my chest as my front sight cavorted around the bull. A slow trigger squeeze brought another ten, wide this time, just cutting the ring. Then the pressure was really on and my light rifle performed such a dance that the black bull could be seen both above and below the aperture of my front sight. The inevitable eight at eleven o'clock promptly took all the pressure off, and the last two shots of the string were steady X's.

Cannot all of us recall instances in which the bounding rifle barrel settled back into a steady groove as a few wild shots changed our tense expectations to resignation?

The cause lies in the breast of the shooter, not in his left arm. The matter has been investigated thoroughly by medical research men, though in another connection, and complete explanations have been available in the medical and physiological journals for years.

The heart is a muscular pump, its function being to provide a continual flow of blood throughout all the living portions of the body. The heart does not supply a continuous flow as, for instance, a centrifugal pump might provide, but instead it ejects the blood in sudden, abrupt, brief spurts, each spurt causing a pulsebeat, and each spurt of blood occupying a space of time considerably smaller than the interval between pulse-beats.

When the blood is forced abruptly from the heart, the heart itself recoils a little, just as does a firearm when the bullet is ejected. Recoil of the heart exerts a force on the body as a whole, impelling the body very slightly toward the feet. Since the body does not float freely in space but always rests on or against something, it tends to rebound from the footward thrust and rock back in a direction of the individual's head.

It is the shaking of the whole body by the heart which is noticeable when one is shooting in the prone position. While the movement may not be so noticeable when one is using iron sights, the use of telescopic sights of high power so magnifies apparent movement that the beat of the pulse is always evident in the dance of the crosshairs on the target. The important fact is that the amount of vibration is always proportional to the force of the heartbeat, and that all efforts to control the vibration must begin with a consideration of methods to calm the heart and increase its efficiency.

Prone shooting is a game of physical prowess and skill. It demands a healthy body and stable emotions. Other things being the same, the heart of a man who is physically fit and in good athletic condition will react less violently to exercise, emotion or digestion than will the heart of his brother who is flabby and short-winded.

All of us are subject to strong emotion, however, and most shooters know well what strong emotion can do to the heartbeat. The most troublesome emotion to the shooter is that tension born of a strong desire to win, perhaps a form of buck fever, which tightens his muscles, hastens his trigger finger and causes his point of aim to dance all over the target with the beating of his heart. The best antidote for tension is to become accustomed to it by much tournament shooting.

The presence of food in the stomach and intestines creates a need for additional circulation of blood through the abdominal organs. To supply the need the heart must beat more forcefully, and consequently the best scores are rarely shot immediately after a large meal. Hunger, on the other hand, lowers the content of sugar in the blood and brings about a stimulation of the adrenal glands, which act to raise the blood pressure and thus increase the force of contraction in the heart muscle, likewise increasing the vibration of the body by the heart. The best time to shoot is just before beginning to feel hungry for the next meal.

Since there will always be some heartbeat to contend with we may seek ligitimate means of lessening its effect upon our shooting. I believe that the more rigid a structure is and the more firmly it is attached to the earth, the less readily will it be shaken by internal or external force. Accordingly, I avoid all padding except the minimum required for comfort in shooting. Sponge rubber pads in the sling cuffs, for instance, make for a springy resilient structure which can be readily distorted and shaken. A soft shooting pad with additional yielding material to support the elbows seems a poor foundation to steady a pulsating, vibrating body. For some of us, a few additional X's are worth the dirt on our clothes.

A rigid and unyielding position of the body cannot be attained or maintained by muscular control. A shooting position should be adopted in which the rigidity of the rifle and of the shooter's bones, the weight of his body and the unyielding strength of his sling contrive to provide a stable structure, not dependent on the muscles at all, that resists to the utmost the application of force from within or without. If muscle tension is required to maintain a shooting position, that position cannot be ideal for muscle is yielding and inconstant. It may overdo a little and pull the shooter out of position in one direction or it may relax and allow him to move the other way. Tense muscles are especially tricky at that instant in which the weapon is fired. Watch your neighbor on the firing line wink with each shot. A proper prone shooting position is not difficult to maintain, rather it is difficult to get out of.

THE SPOTTING SCOPE -- October 1949

Shooters' congratulations go to Brigadier General Charles H. Grahl, Adjutant General of the State of Iowa, to National Guard personnel at Camp Dodge, and to the Des Moines Rifle and Pistol Club for the smooth conduct of the National Smallbore Championships there. . . . Likewise to Lieutenant Colonel R. C. Risberg, USA, and personnel at Fort Sheridan, Ill., for the hitch-less pistol matches. . . . U. S. Navy was represented at the pistol championships by its first official entry since 1931 . . . the result of eliminations held within the service. . . . Conspicuously absent from both national scenes was the commercial row of old. . . . Special commendations are due Reis Tuttle and Dick Spry, of the Des Moines Register-Tribune staff, for their coverage of the rifle event. . . . Also Jimmy Sigretti, Chicago Tribune, and Tom Ward, of the Associated Press.

Most travelled shooter of the year was Sgt. Ted Awana of the Hawaiian Police Department . . . who paid his way to the Seattle pistol regional and went home with second place . . . and two weeks later was back on the water headed for the Nationals, the trip sponsored by Dr. Fronk, president of the Hawaiian Territorial Rifle Association, the Quarterback Club of Honolulu, individual members of the police department, and interested businessmen . . . total travel was more than 15,000 miles. . . . Harry Reeves, severely handicapped by a badly sprained back during the championships, earned a standing ovation from the firing line as he broke the .45 caliber National Match Course record the final day . . . Reeves then went on to top slow-fire international team qualifiers.

After three battalion teams and a team from unlettered units of the 141st Infantry Regiment, Texas National Guard, fired a match at Camp Bullis near San Antonio, August 28, they were awarded NRA memberships by Major General K. L. Berry, State Adjutant General, Colonel Thomas M. Williams, and Homer Matthews, President of the Liberty Rifle and Pistol Club of San Antonio . . . fifty-four shooting guardsmen will benefit. . . . Colorado's big game hunting season (deer, elk, bear) coincides with NRA's national convention in Denver . . . giving enough time for some extra-curricular shooting by interested delegates. . . . NRA's record books show that of fifteen major women's outdoor pistol records, Gloria Jacobs Norton, pretty housewife from San Francisco, holds thirteen outright . . . and is tied for one of the other two.

A cooperative agreement to improve game conditions in Pennsylvania has been announced by the State Game Commission and the U. S. Forest Service . . . increasing by nearly 50 percent the amount of managed public hunting land in Pennsylvania . . . and designed to improve wildlife management in the "Big Woods" area embracing Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren counties. . . . Clarence S. Hutt, advertising manager of Winchester, has retired after thirty years service. . . . Latest modern shooting plants to open are the Wheaton (Illinois) Rifle Club layout under construction by club members for some two years . . . including outdoor range facilities, a club room, and indoor range . . . and an expansive all-around (rifle, pistol, shotgun) country club built by the Berwyn (Maryland) Club.

Northwest shooters have a friend in court since the tour of the area by NRA's Frank Wyman during the summer. . . . Wyman was much impressed with the shooting possibilities and range facilities in the northern states. . . . Pennsylvania's Game Commission reports that its first effort with a Junior Conservation Camp, near Petersburg, Pa., was successful and that more of the same is planned for 1950 . . . as 172 high school boys went through instruction which included gun handling. . . . Polio victims have often astounded the nation with their grit . . . but none more than fourteen-year-old Gerald Schmiedel, of Schenevus, N. Y. . . . who has just earned the junior Expert Rifleman award though both of his legs are paralyzed from the disease.

Unofficial cable comparison of scores shows that the U. S. has retained the Dewar International Trophy . . . by scoring a new record 20-man team total of at least 7964, compared to England's 7931 and Canada's 7919. . . . It is not too late to make plans and reservations for the Denver convention. . . . Special trains will leave Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, October 14, to join in Chicago for the trip west . . . and a full week of shooting business and entertainment.

Ray Stann

U. S. Has Complete Team In World Shoot For First Time In 19 Years

For the first time in almost two decades, the United States will be represented in the International Shooting Union Championships this fall with a full team. From November 4 to 13 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 12 of the finest marksmen in the United States will match shots with the world's best. It was in 1930 at Antwerp, Belgium, that Americans last fired in all competitions. At that time, the states sent over men that walked away with practically all world titles available. From all indications, the team that flies out of New York on Pan-American Airlines, for the southern hemisphere, on October 25th, will match feats with its long ago predecessor.

The squad that 1949 United States laurels depend on is divided down to six pistol shooters and 6 riflemen. The handgun men fired for positions on the team at Ft. Sheridan, Ill., while two of the riflemen qualified at Des Moines, Iowa, and the other four at Quantico, Va.

The six handgun men who will go south are Technical Sergeant Huelet Benner, national pistol champion of Ft. Knox, Ky., Harry Reeves, Detroit, Michigan, Captain William A. Hancock, Ft. Worden, Washington, Charles Logie, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Frank Borneman, Quincy, California, and W. T. Toney, Jr., Kingsville, Texas.

Benner made the team by being high man in the rapid fire tryouts firing a 583 out of a possible 600. Reeves did the same by topping the slow fire phase with a 1064 out of a possible 1200. In the case of the other four, they had the high aggregates after adding their slow and rapid fire scores together. Hancock put 558 and 1060 together for 1618 to make the team followed by Logie with 572-1021 for 1593, Borneman, 565-1023 for 1588, and Toney 554-1030 for 1584.

Lt. Col. Walter Walsh, Washington, D. C., tied Toney's aggregate score but was ranked off the team because he posted a lower rapid fire score than the Texan. Walsh had a 551.

The six man rifle squad includes 4 veterans of international competition and two newcomers. The veterans are Arthur Cook, Washington, D. C., and Arthur Jackson, Brooklyn, N. Y., who competed in the 1948 Olympics and Frank Parsons, Chevy Chase, Md., and Dr. Emmet Swanson, Minneapolis, Minn., who not only competed in last year's Olympics but were on the U. S. team that took the world free rifle championship at Antwerp, Belgium, in 1930. The newcomers are Robert K. Sandager, Minneapolis, Minn., and August Westergaard, Whiting, Iowa.

Jackson and Westergaard made the team at the Camp Dodge, Iowa, smallbore tryouts. Jackson was high man with 1122-36X followed by Westergaard at 1113-38X over the international 1200 point 50 meter course.

The other four were high in the free rifle competition held at Quantico, Va. They fired twice over the 120-shot international course at 300 meters. Sandager put 1067 and 1071 together for 2138. Cook had 1047-1031 for 2078, Swanson 1009-1050 for 2059, and Parsons 975-1018 for 1993.

The team will be captained by Colonel Paul Martin, General Staff Corps, U. S. Army, and the team coach and adjutant is Colonel Charles F. Densford, U. S. Air Force.

The 14 men fly out of New York on Pan-American Airways for Argentina, on Oct. 25. They will arrive in Buenos Aires in time to have a week's practice before the championship firing starts on November 4. Competition lasts through November 13 and the team will disband in New York on November 17.

GUNSMITH GRESHAM DIES

Gunsmith Tom Gresham of Salem, Virginia author of the popular RIFLEMAN 'how-to-do-it' series on converting a Springfield rifle to sporter (RIFLEMAN, July-November 1948), died in September after a brief illness. A one time teacher at the University of Virginia, Gresham became one of the top firearm craftsmen of the nation and had made deluxe rifles for some of the country's best-known sportsmen.

HARRISON REBURIAL

Maj. Charles F. Harrison, Jr., who was a prisoner on Bataan and died in May, 1944, while a prisoner of the Japanese, was reburied in Leesburg, Va., recently. Maj. Harrison was a graduate in the class of 1933 of the Military Academy. In June, 1941, he left a post of duty at Edgewood Arsenal, Md., and embarked for the Philippines.

He became a prisoner of the Japanese on the fall of Bataan in April, 1942. As a prisoner of war, he endured the infamous "March of Death." He was shot by Japanese troops during an attempted escape from the Daveo prison camp on Mindanao.

Maj. Harrison was an outstanding pistol and rifle marksman and was a member of the United States Cavalry Pistol and Rifle Team. He was the holder of the Distinguished Pistol Badge, highest United States award for marksmanship.

The Harrison Cup, symbolic of the National Pistol Championship, was named for him.

CAMP PERRY 1949

On Saturday and Sunday, August 20 and 21, Camp Perry, Ohio, was the scene of the Ohio State Small-Bore Championships, a scene reminiscent of the National Matches of 1947 and years prior. Three hundred and fifty small-bore competitors spread their mats side by side on a firing line one-half mile long to fire, in one relay, the Regional course to decide the Small-Bore Championship of the State of Ohio.

For the first time, at a match of this type, competitors themselves manned the range, put their own targets on the backing boards and the backing boards on the frames, and changed their targets between stages.

Conducted partly as an experiment to determine whether or not it was feasible to operate so large a match at Camp Perry without the expense of hiring operating personnel, the match went off smoothly and with a minimum of delay although there was some difficulty the first day holding targets on the boards against a rather strong Camp Perry wind. Range Officer Loren Allen, assisted by seven volunteer range officers from the State Association and various arms and ammunition companies, did an expert job of running the big line.

There can be no argument that the match did run much more slowly than usual. It is doubtful whether the same program could have been fired in the two days had there been two relays in each event and there can be no doubt that fair and sunny weather is a 'must' for tournaments in which the targets are to be distributed to the competitors on the line, laid on the ground, framed by the competitors and later picked up from the line for scoring. Many old-time shooters, wise to the vagaries of Camp Perry weather, while outspoken in their praise of the Ohio State Association for a big shoot well run, might still have been observed to 'cock a weather eye' at the Camp Perry sky occasionally and slowly cross their fingers.

WINTER'S COMING

And with winter just around the bend it's time to start plans for the indoor season—that means a league. Leagues have taken such an important place in the activities of most clubs that they are an annual fixture. Leagues provide organized shooting, on a regular schedule, for everyone in a club, new members and old-timers alike enjoy this type of team competition. Not only is it fun but it is good training for serious tournament competition.

When several clubs are conveniently close together they can organize an interclub league, with each club represented by one or more teams.

If there are no nearby clubs, you can still have your league. Divide your club membership into teams of as nearly equal strength as possible and organize these teams into a league. Teams can be of any size—four firing members is the usual number.

Leagues will be registered by the NRA for the 1949-1950 season under much the same plan as used previously. Full details will be mailed soon to each affiliated-club secretary and all league secretaries. The important thing right now is to get your league plans going. Decide whether you will have a league within your own organization or if you will take in teams from other clubs; what your course of fire will be; when your match schedule will begin and how long it will continue. Then start firing as soon as the weather gets cold enough to begin indoor work.

A league can be registered with the NRA up to January 15, 1950, even after league competition begins.

1950 REGIONALS

It is not too early for clubs that have the range facilities and the ambition to consider whether or not they would like to conduct a regional championship tournament in 1950. A club with personnel willing to give the time and labor that is required to hold a regional championship can gain tremendous prestige and further good public relations between the club and its community. Any club that might be interested in sponsoring a 1950 regional should check with the Chamber of Commerce in its town to see what assistance and what encouragement they will give. Interested clubs should begin now to make plans because invitations will soon be requested from clubs able and willing to hold 1950 regional tournaments.

DCM REPORTS

The time is again near for sending in the annual reports required by the DCM of all clubs enrolled with that office. These reports are the Annual Report of Firing and the Annual Inventory of U. S. Property in the Possession of the Club.

Reports will not be required of clubs which have enrolled with the DCM during the last three months. Also, an Annual Inventory will not be required of those clubs having no rifles or other nonexpendable Government property.

Reports are due in the DCM office on October 31 from those clubs in Zone 1, the northern part of the U. S. From Zone 2, the central part of the U. S., reports are due on November 30; and from the southern part of the U. S., Zone 3, reports are due in the DCM office on December 31. Blank forms for making these reports will be sent to clubs in each zone thirty days prior to the date reports are due.

Last year approximately twenty-five percent of the rifle clubs submitted incorrect or incomplete reports. This made necessary one or more letters from the DCM, greatly increasing the work load of that office and delaying the servicing of other clubs. Many clubs later found that they were not in good standing with the DCM and were not eligible to receive issues of supplies or equipment because of the failure to render complete and correct reports or to reply to letters from the DCM regarding these reports.

The DCM has recently directed the return of all Government property in the possession of approximately 200 clubs because of their failure to submit correct annual reports, or to make necessary corrections to reports submitted, or to reaffiliate with the NRA. Some of those clubs made the excuse that their secretary was not 'on the job'. Check up on your secretary—help keep your club off the delinquent list.

Remember that no issues will be approved to your club until your 1949 annual reports have been received and accepted. Also, remember that the issue of ammunition for next year will be based entirely upon the number of members shown in your Report of Firing as having fired an authorized Army or DCM qualification course for record. It is not necessary that a member qualify as marksman, sharpshooter or expert in order to entitle the club to his allowance of ammunition, but a record course must be fired. The Report of Firing is to show all firing between your last annual report and this one—if your report is due in October, your Report of Firing will cover all firing from October 1948 to October 1949.

Junior rifle clubs are again limited in the issues of .22-caliber ammunition. The issue will be 250 instead of 400 rounds per member firing the DCM course. Plan your use of the ammunition accordingly.

Ordinarily, only one issue of supplies will be made each year to each club. However, if the club membership increases considerably, consideration will be given to a supplemental request.

Requests for next year's requirements are to be submitted at the same time the annual reports are rendered.

Many inquiries are received regarding increases in prices of ammunition and ammunition components available through the DCM. These increases are due to increases in procurement costs to the Ordnance Department, and prices are increased by the Ordnance Department as those increases occur. If an increase in price is made after an order is submitted, the customer must pay the increased price, unless he desires to cancel his order, which he may do by failing to make reemittance to the arsenal within thirty days.

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Far Southwestern ..... Lee Echols, Room 109, 4752 Palm St., La Mesa, Calif.
Northeastern ..... E. F. Bridgman, 116 Elm Street, West Springfield, Mass.

GOING HUNTING?

This time of year many clubs perform a very useful service to their communities by making it possible for the hunter to go into the woods with a rifle that has been properly sighted and is in safe operating condition.

There are many times more hunters than there are target shooters. There are thousands upon thousands of hunters who never touch their rifles from one hunting season to the next. Most of these men and women would sincerely appreciate an opportunity to fire their rifles, check their sights and check the functioning of the gun before going into the field. In many cases their only reason for not checking equipment is that they do not know of a safe place in the community to shoot. Here is where the local club enters the picture.

Rifle and pistol clubs have both the facilities and the technical 'know-how' to be of invaluable assistance. Those clubs that have an annual program to help hunters in their community find that it pays off, not only in excellent public relations but in the modest source of club income that results from the range fees.

Many clubs, in addition to providing the bare facilities for sighting in a deer rifle, have gone further and constructed running deer and other types of game targets. These have induced many hunters to stay permanently in the club who had not known that 'target' shooting could be fun and have a practical side too.

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Small-bore rifle shooters who are physically handicapped and must shoot from unorthodox positions or must use artificial limbs or supports are now able to take part in NRA registered league and tournament competition. A ruling of the NRA Executive Committee, in effect little over a year, establishes a procedure whereby physically handicapped shooters may apply in writing for permission to use schooting positions and physical supports that would otherwise be illegal under existing small-bore rules. The petition is to be accompanied by photographs showing the position or special equipment used.

All NRA Official Referees have complete information on the preparation of such requests. Details can also be obtained by anyone interested from the NRA Competitions Section.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

On October 9 the Patapsco rifle range at Marriottsville, Maryland will crackle with a full day of shooting events comprising the First Annual Junior Small-Bore Rifle State Championship Tournament. This tournament has been registered with the NRA under the sponsorship of the Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore. Shooters wishing full details may obtain match programs from Mr. John Lenz, Director of Junior Activities for AGC, 3216 Batavia Avenue, Baltimore 14, Maryland.

DISTINGUISHED JUNIOR RIFLEMEN

The following young rifle shooters entered the ranks of NRA Junior Distinguished Riflemen, qualifying for this highest rating during the month of July:

William L. Armstrong, Pattersonville, New York
Robert E. Hess, Lebanon, Pennsylvania
John Roy Crandall, Ontario, Canada
Arthur S. Turner, Harvard, Massachusetts
David H. Shwerick, Winchester, Massachusetts
Helen Rose Hewitt, Haverford, Pennsylvania
Monte Killingsworth, Oxnard, California
Dell Patterson, Evansville, Indiana
William Berg, Cortland, Illinois
Richard Kline, Twin Falls, Idaho
Gary Hartman, Napa, California
Marlene Bellinger, Seattle, Washington
Ramon Edward Bisque, Iron River, Michigan
Hollis Tessmer, Cazenovia, Wisconsin
Gordon McAllister, Seattle, Washington
Bill Morgan, Le Grand, California
Harry Nichols, Jr., New York City, New York
Daniel B. Pyle, Youngstown, Ohio
William F. Rusk, Oakland, California
Eileen Elliott, Piedmont, California
Walter M. McMurtry, Detroit 2, Michigan
Raymond Sadler, Jamaica, New York

MEMBERS, DIRECTORS MEET

The Annual Meeting of Members of the National Rifle Association for the election of Directors and to conduct such other business which may be properly presented, as provided in the by-laws, will be held in the Shirley-Savoy Hotel, Denver, Colorado, on Wednesday, October 19, 1949, at 2:00 p.m. All NRA members have the privilege of the floor. The right to vote is limited to Life and Endowment Members, Benefactors and Patrons.

The Annual Meeting of the NRA Board of Directors will be held in the Shirley-Savoy Hotel, Denver, Colorado, Friday, October 21, 1949, at 9:30 a.m., as provided in the by-laws of the Association. The purpose of this meeting is the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the consideration of such other business as may properly come before the board.

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COMING EVENTS

Regional Championship Tournaments (Class A) and State or Division Championships (Class B) only are listed below. All other NRA Registered Tournaments are listed in a printed schedule that will be sent to any shooter upon request. Send your request by letter or penny postcard to the National Rifle Association, Competitions Section, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Tournaments requiring advance entries are indicated by (Adv.). Tournaments limiting the number of entries that can be accepted are indicated by (Ltd.).

Always write to the tournament sponsor for a program in advance of any Registered Tournament you plan to attend. It is your assurance that you will know all of the details and the tournament conditions.

OCTOBER

1-2 (B) PENNSYLVANIA—Pennsylvania State Pistol Tournament at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. F. H. Wells, 3800 Hillcrest Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (Adv-Ltd)

1-2 (B) OHIO—Ohio State Team Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Mt. Gilead, Ohio. John R. Lang, 3498 Meadow Avenue, Cincinnati 11, Ohio (Adv)

1-2 (B) ARIZONA—Arizona State Small Bore Rifle Championship at Phoenix, Arizona. A. Donald Amesbury, 4065 Montecito Avenue, Tucson, Arizona (Adv-Ltd)

1-2 (B) TENNESSEE—Tennessee State .30 Caliber Championship at Knoxville, Tennessee. A. W. Nine, 104 Underwood Place, Knoxville, Tennessee (Ltd)

1-2 (B) OKLAHOMA—Oil Capitol Fall Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Matt Dunham, 1708 South Yorktown, Tulsa, Oklahoma (Adv-Ltd)

7-8-9 (B) VIRGINIA—First Annual Marine Corps School Pistol Tournament at Quantico. Lt. Col. W. F. Prickett, Marine Corps Barracks, Quantico, Virginia

8-9 (B) CALIFORNIA—Southern California Small Bore Championship at Santa Barbara, California. W. G. Sainsbury, P. O. Box 153, Santa Barbara, California (Adv-Ltd)

8-9 (B) ARKANSAS—Seventh Annual State Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Little Rock, Arkansas. N. G. Horn, 1200 Ridge Road, Park Hill, North Little Rock, Arkansas (Adv)

9 (B) MASSACHUSETTS—Massachusetts State Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Framingham, Massachusetts. Harold L. Buck, Box 53, Framingham, Massachusetts (Adv-Ltd)

15-16 (B) ALABAMA—Alabama State Championship Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Mobile, Alabama. H. W. Passinger, 2014 C North Portier Court, Mobile, Alabama (Adv)

15-16 (B) TEXAS—Ada Zilker Robinson Pistol Tournament at Austin, Texas. Sidney C. Mason, 3600 Bonnie Road, Austin, Texas

15-16 (B) CALIFORNIA—Far Western Small Bore Rifle Championship. Henry C. Wright, 1025 Michigan, Fresno, California

29-30 (B) TEXAS—Capitol City Small Bore Tournament at Austin, Texas. Sidney Mason, 3600 Bonnie Road, Austin, Texas

NOVEMBER

5-6 FLORIDA—Florida West Coast Small Bore Championship at Clearwater, Florida. L. W. Abrams, 705 Prospect Avenue, Clearwater, Florida (Adv-Ltd)

12-13 CALIFORNIA—Pacific States Fall Round-Up Rifle Championships at Monterey Park, California. Mrs. Gladys Rising, 600 North Mayo Avenue, Compton 2, California (Adv-Ltd)

The Pistol Tournament at Springfield, Illinois, scheduled for October 9th will not be conducted.

The Rifle Tournament at Springfield, Illinois, scheduled for October 24th will not be conducted.

STOLEN GUNS

.30 caliber new model Luger pistol. Homemade magazine follower button. German name and Dec. 1917 date written in ink inside grips. Homemade trigger lever pin. Serial # 6811 or 6311. Reward. Jesse R. Talley, Box 12, P-105 "A" St., Sandia Base Branch, Albuquerque, N. M.

Slide action .22 pump repeater Winchester Model 62 # 87942 A; Iver Johnson 12 ga. shotgun, raised rib, 32" barrel, serial # 31438; U. S. caliber .30 rifle, M1917 Enfield, Serial # 1169073 Eddystone; U. S. caliber .30 rifle, M1917, Serial # 10682 Winchester; Winchester model 95 .30-'06, Serial # 418822; Scope Lyman Alaskan # 11857. Cpl. Joseph J. Lubkowski, 88th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Co. FA, APO 807, c/o PM, New York, N. Y.

U. S. Enfield rifle .30 caliber, M1917, # 884122; 2 Remington 35 auto-loading Model 81. Initials or name under butt plate. Oliver C. Michaels, 249 E. Hillcrest Blvd., Monrovia, Calif. Reward $100.

D. W. M. Luger, 9 mm., # 1489. Stock lug filed from grip, action stop missing, walnut grips. Peter F. Ayer, Box 25, Berea, Kentucky.

DOPE BAG

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K-Hornet • Light-tip Bullets • Winchester Model 43 • Rifle Identification • Punctured Primers in Enfield • Drams and Grains • Handloads for .380 ACP • S&W Barrel Length • Light Bullets in .30-'06 • .257 Ackley Improved • Apex Scope Dots • Bear Cub Scopes and Master Mounts • New Products • Trade Dope • Book Reviews

THE K-HORNET

What is a K-Hornet? Is it a standard .22 Hornet with a large powder capacity or what? How does one go about obtaining ammunition for a K-Hornet?—SAM A. DALE, San Diego, Calif.

Answer: The K-Hornet is a wildcat originated by Lysle D. Kilbourne of Whitesboro, New York. It is a regular Hornet with the chamber enlarged and the shoulder made sharper so the case will hold more powder and thus give noticeably improved ballistics over the regular Hornet.

To obtain cases for reloading in the K-Hornet, you simply fire regular factory .22 Hornet cartridges in the rechambered gun, and the powder pressure blows out the cartridge to fit the enlarged chamber. These empty cartridges, obtained from firing the factory loads, can then be reloaded to higher velocities on account of the increased powder capacity.

The beauty of the K-Hornet is that if you do not care to reload, you can fire regular factory Hornet cartridges in it, and you get regular Hornet ballistics. If you want higher velocities, you can reload and get them with the blown-out cases.—J. S. H.

BEHAVIOR OF LIGHT-TIP BULLETS

In April RIFLEMAN (page 33), W. C. Davis says, "the light-point filler design *once* typical of .303 British service bullets." This light point is *still* typical of the British service bullet. Ever since the introduction of the Mark VII, spitzer point, thoughout both wars and to the present time, .303 British service bullets have always had a light insert inside the tip. It is composed variously of aluminum, paper, red fiber and lately, black plastic.

I have fired many hundreds of these bullets into our large deer (300-400 pounds), and they almost always turn sideways before emerging from the beast's body. While going sideways through flesh, the pressure forces the lead core out of the open base and flattens the jacket as in the example shown; which is only one of the dozens I have collected from the carcasses of deer. The 'out' wound made by such a deformed bullet is terrific, often as large as the outspread human hand.

Strangely this commonly encountered huge 'out' wound does not usually cause quick death because the bullet generally does not turn over until its rotational spin has been slowed and gyroscopic stability lost. So it usually pierces the vitals (lungs, etc.) point on, making only a small wound, and then having lost most of its rotation it turns sideways while emerging through the further shoulder—in the case of the favorite broadside shot—so that it makes its huge side-on wound only in that muscular area, which does not cause quick death.

Expanding bullets in the same weight and caliber—either soft nose or open point—kill much better, as they expand, point-on, earlier and in the vitals, making a good wound where it is most effective, often not going 'out' at all and so saving the huge hole in the skins caused by the light-point solid-point bullets (so reducing their value).

Skins are what we shoot for here (in New Zealand); until recently they were worth $2 per pound dry weight. Deerskins average 5 pounds; each equals $10. With absolutely free shooting (no protection) a good market hunter taking up to 1000 deerskins per year was in the money! (The skins are sold almost entirely in the USA.)—MATT GRANT, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Typical deformation of .303 British light-tip bullet

WINCHESTER MODEL 43 VARMINT RIFLE

Since giving specifications on the new model 43 Winchester bolt-action rifle on page 61 of the RIFLEMAN, April 1949, we have been using one of these attractive little rifles in .218 Bee caliber. Considering its weight, it is a trim little sporter on which we installed a 330 Weaver scope with Edwards 6X attachment in C. A. Hill Ring mounts. The combination complete weighs an even seven pounds. The scope and mount combination is about the neatest we have been able to find for the little sporter, yet it gives us the six power combination for a varmint rifle.

Accuracy with factory loads was reasonably good from the beginning, but it improved somewhat after checking the bedding. We then made 10-shot groups with WRA 46-grain factory loads as small as 1.62 inches at 100 yards; practically all 5-shot groups went under 1¾ inches. The rifle performed better with handloads, even some heavy ones. The best combination for the rifle was fifteen grains of IMR 4198 with 50-grain Sierra bullets. Our smallest group measured 1.08 inches with four in ⅝ inch. It did very well also at 200 yards. Other loads which we found practical in this rifle were fourteen and 14.5 grains of No. 4227 with 45-grain Sierra bullets. The heaviest load tried was fifteen grains of No. 4227 with the same 45-grain bullet. The biggest group we had with the fifteen grains of No. 4198 and the 50-grain bullet was 1.61 inches for ten shots at 100 yards; the best was 10 in 1.25 inches.

The model 43 Winchester is an outstanding little varmint rifle, considering appearance and performance. As can be expected, the trigger is about twice as heavy as the minimum for safety. A little working over, including the bedding, is well worthwhile, considering the final performance of the rifle.

Frequently we are asked whether to recommend the M43 in .22 Hornet or Bee caliber. Some reasons perhaps why the Bee cartridge should be considered is that when handloading is anticipated the Bee is a good one to reload, as it is perhaps a stronger case than the Hornet. Also a little higher velocity is obtained even with factory loads and the Bee seems to perform very well with moderately heavy loads.

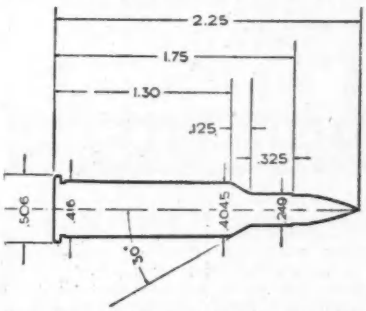
Some owners will undoubtedly chamber these rifles for the K-Hornet and for the Improved Bee, which is satisfactory so long as the extreme maximum loads are not used. —A. H. B.

RIFLE IDENTIFICATION

Can you furnish me with cartridge and chamber dimensions for the .219 Donaldson Wasp? I have received several calls for the cartridge and wish to tool up for it. Do you have any dope on altering the extractor on bolt actions to accommodate the rimmed case?

Don't you think gunsmiths should stamp the barrel of a gun with the name of proper cartridge to be used in it when they do rebarreling. I have received in my shop any number of rebarreled jobs that were not even stamped with the type of cartridge or chamber. I know of one case where a shooter bought a rebarreled model 98 Mauser .30-'06 rifle for a .270 caliber. The owner fired a .270 cartridge in it before he discovered the mistake.—BEN E. NEWMAN, Agency, Iowa.

Answer: Cartridge case dimensions for the .219 Donaldson Wasp, as well as other .22 loads, are listed in *Twenty-Two Caliber Varmint Rifles* by C. S. Landis, available at $5 from T. G. Samworth, Georgetown, S. C.



Dimensions of .219 Donaldson-Wasp cartridge

The dimensional drawing of the Wasp from that book is reproduced here through courtesy of the publisher. Incidentally, the name 'Wasp' as applied to this .219 cartridge has been copyrighted by Vernor Gipson, North Salem, Indiana.

The H&M Tool Co., 250 East Nine Mile Road, Ferndale, Michigan, makes reamers for the .219 caliber.

As for the extractor, my understanding is that you have only to grind away the extractor and, of course, enlarge the bolt face by turning or grinding for the larger rim of the Wasp case.—J. S. H.

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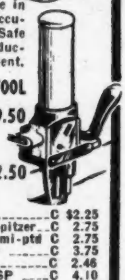

BULLETS

Sierra, 22 Hornet 40 & 45 gr. SP	C	$2.25
Sierra, Cal. 22, 45, 50 & 55 gr. Spitzer	C	2.75
Sierra, Cal. 22, 45, 50 & 55 gr. semi-ptd	C	2.75
Sierra, Cal. 25, 87 gr. HV Spitzer	C	3.75
Western, Cal. 25-20, 86 gr. OP	C	2.46
Western, Cal. 250 Savage, 87 gr. SP	C	4.10
Sierra, Cal. 25, 100 gr. HV Spitzer	C	3.85
Sierra, Cal. 25, 117 gr. HV Spitzer	C	4.00
Sierra, Cal. 30, 125 gr. HV Spitzer	C	4.25
Sierra, Cal. 30, 150 gr. HV Spitzer	C	4.50
Sierra, Cal. 30, 180 gr. HV Spitzer	C	4.75
Speer, Cal. 22, 45, 50 & 55 gr. HV Spitzer	C	2.80
Speer, Cal. 25, 60 gr. SP	C	3.75
Speer, Cal. 270, 100 gr. SP Spitzer	C	4.25
Speer, Cal. 270, 130 gr. SP Spitzer	C	4.50
Speer, Cal. 30, 110 gr. SP	C	4.25
Speer, Cal. 30, 150 SP, Round Nose	C	4.50
West. Cal. 7.62mm, Russ., 145 gr. HCP	C	4.94
Western Cal. 32-20, 80 gr. OP	C	2.72
Speer, Cal. 8 mm 170 gr. SP Round Nose	C	4.50
Hornady, Cal. 270, 130 gr. Spire Point	C	4.50
Hornady, Cal. 30, 110 gr. Spire Point	C	4.25
Hornady, Cal. 30, 150 gr. Spire Point	C	4.50
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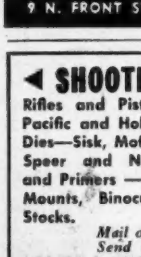

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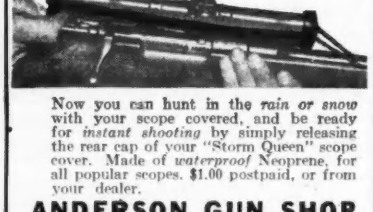

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PUNCTURED PRIMERS IN ENFIELD

I have recently purchased a serviceable Enfield from the DCM. After firing 40 rounds of 110-grain Remington cartridges, I discovered that the gun was shooting perfectly, but upon firing 15 rounds of Winchester 180-grain Silvertip cartridges I found that 6 out of 15 cases had holes punched entirely through the primers and that these same six cartridges caused powder smoke to escape.—NORMAN C. MCCUBBIN, M.D., Concordia, Kansas.

Answer: You probably have either a weak mainspring in your Enfield or a firing pin which protrudes through the bolt face more than .060 to .065 inch. The pin should be shortened to .065-inch length and be well-rounded. Then the only other thing which would cause the punctured primers would be a firing pin too small for the firing pin hole in the bolt face.—A.H.B.

DRAMS AND GRAINS

Not long ago, when ammunition was hard to get, a shooter obtained a shot shell reloading outfit, complete with shot, primers, and a powder scoop made for loading black or bulk powder. Then he got a can of dense shotgun powder. He scooped up a measure indicating 3¼ drams of powder and loaded it behind 1¼ ounces of shot. When he fired the load, it blew the gun to bits and tore his left arm off.

They weren't cartridges he loaded; they were bombs. What the shooter had done was fire an overload of nearly 350 percent. A dram weight is 27.34 grains, and a normal charge of dense powder is 25 to 26 grains weight, *equivalent* to a charge of 3¼ drams of bulk smokeless or black powder.—BILLY COX, New York, N. Y.

HANDLOADS FOR .380 ACP

My Hi-Standard G380 shows some indication that with modifications it will be adequate for target use. I have been using factory loads to date, but would like to do some handloading. Do you have any data on proper loads for this gun?—W. C. WILKINSON, Princeton, New Jersey.

Answer: While the .380 ACP cartridge is well designed and is inherently very accurate, there has never been much handloading done for it, and therefore very little reloading information is available.

The most suitable bullet for handloading is Ideal No. 358242 shortened one band to weigh 107 grains instead of 125. The 125-grain weight is intended for the .38 ACP.

With the bullet seated to a depth of .160 inch, a charge of two grains of Bullseye will give 710 feet per second; 2.7 grains (which is the maximum charge) will give 985 f.p.s. —J. S. H.

BARREL LENGTH OF S&W .357 MAGNUM

Several months ago I purchased an S&W .357 Magnum through an advertisement. I ordered a holster for it, believing the barrel to be 8⅜-inches long. The holster arrived and it wouldn't fit. I measured the barrel and found it to be 8¾-inches long. I did not know they made the gun in this barrel length. Can you give me an explanation?

Answer: The first Magnums made were 8¾-inch barrels. Later, the company cut down the barrel length to 8⅜ inches. You must have one of the early guns.—J. S. H.

LIGHT BULLETS IN .30-'06

Would it be possible to estimate the velocity of a 110-grain Speer .30-'06 bullet using 49 grains of No. 3031 powder and Winchester 120 primers? How much stronger in velocity are the 120 primers over Frankford Arsenal primers?

The Belding & Mull Handbook lists 47.5 grains of No. 3031 and 57 grains of No. 3031 with F. A. primers as giving a velocity of 2750 foot-seconds. I am trying to work up a 3000 foot-seconds load in my .30-'06 Model 70.

What do you think I can expect in the way of accuracy using the 110 grain in .30-'06 and what velocity is best for good accuracy?—DON WALLACE, Lockport, N. Y.

Answer: Without accurate chronographing equipment, we could not tell the difference in the velocity of a given load for a given bullet weight when using the F. A. 70 or Winchester 120 primers. Regardless of what you shoot at or who does the shooting, no one would be able to detect the difference in velocity by performance.

From your loading book you find that the difference in minimum to maximum load for the 110-grain bullet using No. 3031 powder in .30-'06 caliber is 9.5 grains and the difference in velocity between the light load and the maximum is 560 foot-seconds. Therefore, 560 foot-seconds divided by 9.5 grains gives 59 foot-seconds increase in velocity for every grain increase in powder over the lightest charge. That means an increase of 4½ to 5 grains should give around 3000 foot-seconds, which would be favorable velocity for a light bullet.

Some '06 rifles shoot very well with the 110-grain bullet and others do not. You will have to actually try the loads in your rifle to find out what the combination can do.—A. H. B.

APEX SCOPE DOTS

If you take your rifle and scope, zeroed in at one range and shoot for drop at other ranges, Gordon L. Bailey, P. O. Box 433, Lebanon, Penn., will be able to take your scope and install the desired combination of crosshairs and dots which will zero you for the other ranges for which the drop is given. In other words, you will then have crosshairs or dots in your scope for zero at more than one range.

We had Mr. Bailey install multiple crosshairs in our Lyman Junior Targetspot and our Unertl Varmint scope. The results were everything that the most exacting customer could desire.

Other work by Mr. Bailey which we have examined included a ½-minute dot and a 1-minute dot in a 10X Fecker, and a 2-minute dot separated by six minutes for range finding in a Weaver K4. These jobs looked good, and tests indicated that the crosshairs and dots were well secured in place and spaced with a high degree of accuracy.—E. B.

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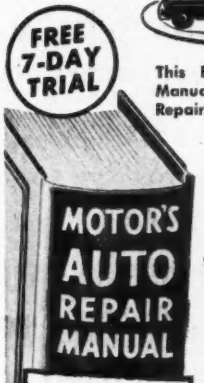

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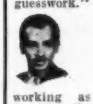

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Body made of extra heavy dark brown waterproof duck trimmed with high grade chocolate elk leather. Opened and closed instantly with Talon fastener that runs full length of bag. Will hold shells, lunch, thermos bottle, mittens, rain shirt, sweater, blanket, fire kindler, etc. While designed by Mr. Bean for Duck Hunters it will be found equally as useful for Fishermen and Campers. Bottom reinforced with stiff lepther that will not break and protected with eight brass studs. Size 16" high, bottom 24" x 9". Price $8.55 postpaid, includes 20% Luggage Tax. Write for Fall Catalog.

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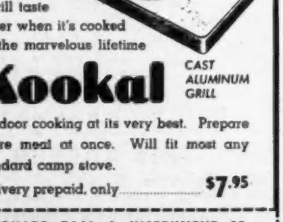

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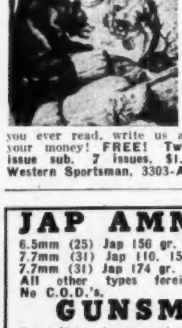

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Western Sportsman, 3303-AR Bridle Path, Austin, Texas

JAP AMMUNITION

6.5mm (25) Jap 156 gr. Soft Point, box 20 ..... $4.50
7.7mm (31) Jap 110, 150, 180 gr. SP, box 20 3.50
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All other types foreign and domestic ammo.
No C.O.D.'s.

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Specializing in conversion of JAPANESE, MAUSER, ENFIELD, SPRINGFIELD RIFLES. Sights, scopes, rebarrelling, bluing. All work guaranteed.

MITCHELL'S GUN SHOP Hanover, N.H.

adjustments are possible to all scope users.

The popular Stith Master Mount, which is more than a year old, has been re-designed slightly, and a change made in the method of coupling the hold down spring to the front base. The change eliminated practically all rotation and longitudinal movement of the scope and also excludes any possibility of the scope jumping out of the mount. The Stith Master Mount is now made of Duralumin to decrease weight.

In addition to the Bear Cub 2½X DeLuxe scope, there is now available the Bear Cub 4X, having both internal elevation and windage adjustment, and the Bear Cub 4X Master which without internal adjustments, is designed especially for use in the Stith Master Mount. Any hunting-type scope, regardless of whether or not it has internal adjustments, can also be used in the Master Mount.

We have seen and used both the Bear Cub 4X and Bear Cub 4X Master, which are identical, except that the Bear Cub has internal adjustments and the Master does not.

The same excellent optics such as brilliant clarity and crispness found in the 2½X Bear Cub is also present in the 4X models. In this respect it is as good as any 4X scope we have seen. An outstanding feature is the clear, flat, sharp image all the way to the edges of the field. The Bear Cub has magnification of 4.13, except for the first two hundred made in this model which were actually 3.62X. This nice looking scope weighs only seven ounces and with the internal adjustment feature added the weight is 8⅝ ounces.

The Bear Cub 4X scope is the model having the internal adjustments, of which the Kollmorgen firm is very proud, and rightly so. The dependability of the adjustments has been proven in one scope, and the results of a shooting test changing the adjustments between shots is very interesting.

To be announced later (around November) will be another Bear Cub. It will be the Bear Cub 6X and Bear Cub 6X Master, both actually 6.2 power with a 20-foot field at 100 yards. The weight will be about nine ounces for the plain scope without internal adjustments. Overall length will be about thirteen inches with a 1-13/16-inch outside diameter objective and approximately 43½ mm. clear objective. The price will be $70 for the Bear Cub Master and $100 for the Bear Cub 6X.

As the tubes of most scopes made today are of lightweight metal with an anodized finish, there was a chance of damage to the scope tubes in the Stith Master Mount where the scope tube is held down firmly on the cones of the mount by spring tension. This hard steel contact tends to wear through the anodized finish, and to prevent this Stith Mounts now provide spring steel contact bands which slip around the scope tube and rest on the cones of the mount. These neat bands, now supplied with the latest Stith Master Mounts, are available for all different type scopes.—A. H. B.

NEW PRODUCTS

Bolt-action shotgun in 12 gauge, manufactured by Harrington and Richardson Arms Co., 320 Park Avenue, Worcester 2 Mass., makes use of the conventional bolt, has a 3-shot tubular magazine, is chambered for the

2¾ inch shells, and has an overall length of 48½ inches. Named the Gamester Model 348, the gun retails for $29.85.

Ramp front sights by Pacific Gunsight Company, 355 Hayes Street, San Francisco 2, California, are available again. Very popular at one time, the sights are being sold in four different sizes: .600, .616, .625, and .635 inch. These slip over the end of a barrel and can be blued at the same time the barrel is blued. The prices have come down—the Ramp is $3.85, the Ramp with slots for hood is $4.25.

Five power tools in one—saw, drill press, lathe, sander and grinder—are available from Power Tools, Inc., 351 East Grand Avenue, Beloit, Wisconsin. Known as the Supershop, the unit includes an 8-inch tilting table saw which gives a 2½-inch depth of cut, a vertical and horizontal drill press, a 30-inch lathe, a disc sander and a grinding wheel. Selling at a price of $59.95, the unit cannot be expected to be the ultimate in shop equipment, but it might be the power tool for the economical home workshop. If you are interested, write the company for further details.

Deluxe Dex Kleen Wiper, for keeping the rust from your gun, is being sold by Decker Brothers, Inc., Mason City, Iowa. It is an oval sheepskin pad of convenient shape for the hand with rust inhibiting grease on the surface. The wiper comes in a convenient cardboard container.

POWer-PAC Compensators for 16-, 28-, 20- and 410-gauge shotguns are available from Pachmayr Gun Works, 1220 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, 15, California. POWer-PAC in 12 gauge has been on the market for several months.

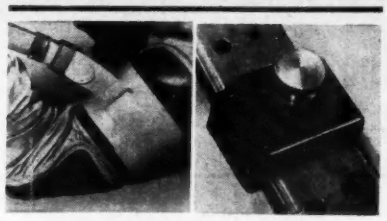
Rifle cleaner making possible a thorough cleaning job of the chamber and lug recesses in your rifle is a special short rod sold with cotton plugs for cleaning the recesses. Trade named Neomatic, the cleaner is put out by Shelley-Braverman, Dept. ARA, 200 East 20th St., New York 3, New York.

McRoy lens adapter units, designed for clearer vision through your sights, are being manufactured by the McRoy Lens Adapter Corp., of Suite 846, Morgan Building, Portland 5, Oregon. The lenses are yellow and appear, on looking through them, very much like the yellow lenses used in some shooting glasses. We have examined a few of them and they do brighten up the image.

It all started when Dr. Leighton E. Roy, an optometrist, and Marion E. McDaniel, a gunsmith, both of Portland, got together to make a better sight. They came up with what they call the McRoy Lens as the answer. Reports from shooters who have used it indicate that it has merit.

GUNSMITH TRADE DOPE

Stackpole & Heck, 33 W. 42nd St., New York 18, N. Y., say that Dick Simmons, the well-known outdoor writer, will be at the NRA Convention in Denver to autograph copies of his new book, *Cutom Built Rifles,* which is now on the press and which will be placed on sale at the Convention at $3.85. We have read the proofs of this new book and it will be rated an NRA Library Book.



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3100 Sling Keeper locks the sling	.90
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Mossberg Stand	11.95
The Bantam Pistol Kit, 3 guns	27.95
"Kit 38" 4 gun Model, Alligator Finish	31.95
"Kit 38" 5 gun Model, Alligator Finish	39.95

BULLETS

Sierra	Per 100	Speer	Per 100
.22— 45 gr. Spitzer HV	$2.75	.257—120 SP	$4.00
.22— 50 gr. Spitzer HV	2.75	.263—120 6.5mm	4.00
.22— 55 gr. Spitzer HV	2.75	.277—100 SP	4.25
.25— 87 gr. Spitzer HV	3.75	.277—130 SP	4.50
.25—100 gr. Spitzer HV	3.85	.277—150 SP	4.75
.25—117 gr. Spitzer HV	4.00	.284—130 7mm SP	4.50
.30—125 gr. Spitzer HV	4.25	.284—145 7mm SP	4.50
.30—150 gr. Spitzer HV	4.50	.3085-110 SP	4.25
.30—180 gr. Spitzer HV	4.75	.311—180 SP	4.75
.270's very soon.		.323—170 SP 8mm	4.50

NORMA BULLETS

Per 100		Per 100
.30-06 180 gr. Match BT $4.95	7mm—156 gr. SN	$4.90
6.5mm 156 gr. SN 4.35	8mm—196 gr. SN	4.60

Also Norma Ammunition in Stock

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Model 70 National Match .30-06	157.65
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M52 Heavy Bbl, no sights, Marksman	96.85
M52 Bullgun, no sights, Marksman	116.75
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M37 Rangemaster, without sights	99.45
M52I Match Master, complete	57.00
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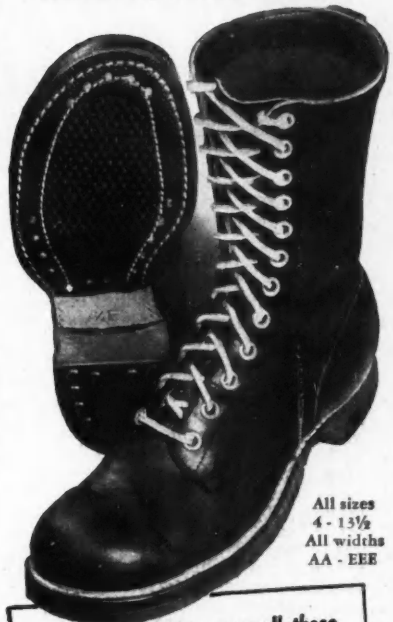

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- Middle sole is leather of outersole quality. Outside tap is rubber, sewed to middle sole in two places and nailed clear through to insole to prevent ripping off.
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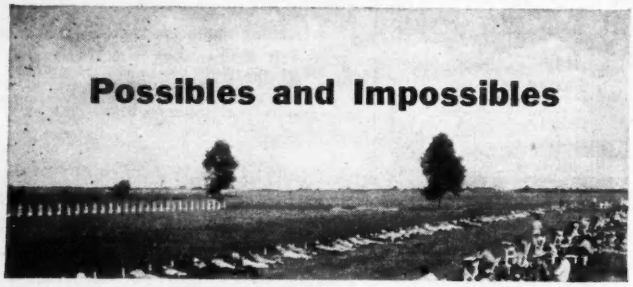
Size and width of Shoe_____

AR-10

A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle Report

VOL. 12, NO. 10 BRIDGEPORT, OCTOBER



Have you a "sighting-in" range at your club? A big eastern club set one up recently in response to members' demand. Previously, this club forbade shooting with big bore rifles because of damage done to target supports. Yet every club member was a hunter when the season opened, and riflemen know the necessity of sighting-in before the season, with the exact loads they plan to hunt with. If possible you might invite non-members to try out their deer rifles before the season. A few tips on "sighting-in" and perhaps some help will certainly make friends for you and your club. And these friends can easily be converted into members.

A sighting-in range takes little space and little time or money to set up. It will prevent interference with smallbore firing, and save a lot of wear and tear on the target frames.

Drop us a line if you want any specific suggestions.

* * *

Have you noticed in the reports from the National Skeet Championships and the Grand American Handicap — top trap, and skeet events of the year, that some of the high scorers are also famous rifle shots? It used to be thought that shotgun target shooting and rifle shooting were mutually exclusive... that the rifleman "*aims*" and the scattergun expert "*swings*." Apparently there are quite a few who can both "aim" and "swing."

* * *

A famous rifle coach was talking about buck fever in big matches. "I've noticed that an extreme attack of buck fever often causes the first shot for record to be wide at two o'clock. Why, I don't know, but I've seen it happen more than once. In two-man matches, when I've seen my partner working up a good case of 'buck,' I've often instructed him to reduce elevation and take several clicks left windage for the first shot, then I tell him conditions have changed, and bring him back." Have you had the same experience?

* * *

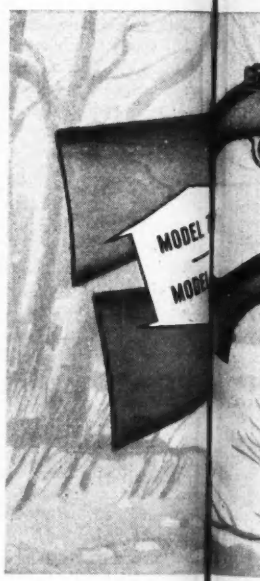
While we were at one of the older rifle clubs in the Southwest recently, we had the pleasure of meeting several visitors who were forming a new club. Among these newcomers to the sport was a young lady who had never before fired a gun. We took on the coaching assignment, and it turned out to be an enjoyable one. She got into a good position, but we thought she'd never get that first shot off! Nope, you guessed wrong. When she finally made it, she didn't close her eyes and jerk the trigger. Her first shot was an 8, and her entire first string of 20 shots at 50 yards was on the paper! In her second string of 20 shots at the same distance she fired a pair of 48's on the first two bulls and finished up with a 186.

Her husband, who had been watching the performance through a scope, finally couldn't stand it any longer. He had to shoot a string himself. The only difference between husband and wife was that he had fired a rifle before, although he had never shot a score on a target. He managed to beat her by two points, but if we're not mistaken in our judgment he'll have to do a lot of practicing to keep ahead of his wife. If she doesn't make a good shooter, we miss our guess.

NEW REMINGTON RIFLES PU

Top Efficiency of Remington Oil Assured by Special "E. P." Lubricant

You get maximum pleasure and accuracy when your gun is in top shape. That's why so many shooters always have a can of Remington Oil on hand. A special ingredient, Du Pont "E.P." —"Extreme Pressure"—lubricant causes Remington Oil to spread more evenly. It also makes the oil adhere more tenaciously to metal surfaces of gun parts. Besides lubricating working parts of your gun, Remington Oil prevents rust. Ask your dealer for a can next time you drop in for ammunition.



AROUND OUR CLUB . . . Passing the

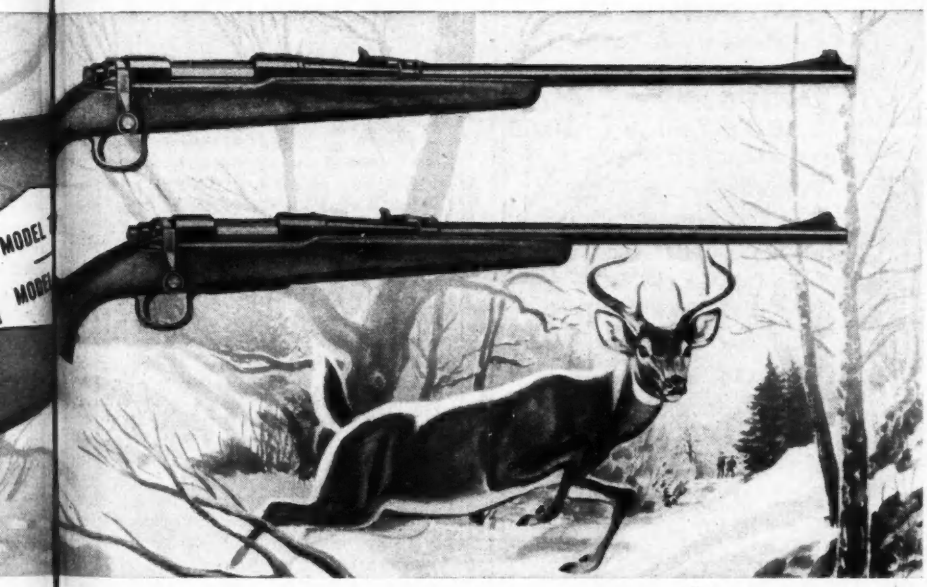
ED CERTAINLY CARRIES ON WHEN HE MISSES A SHOT!
I KEEP TELLING HIM HE OUGHT
SHOOT A REMINGTON MODEL 721
REMINGTON BIG GAME CARTRIDG

Remington News

GEPORT, OCTOBER, 1949

WEATHER:
If you got your buck: Sunny
If not: Gloomy

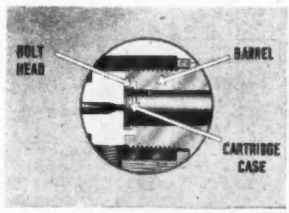
NGTON BOLT ACTION BIG GAME ULAR WITH DEER HUNTERS



Light weight and sturdy action of 721, 722 highly regarded

Bridgeport, Conn. — Many shooters turn this month to deer hunting. And the rifles the boys are talking about this season are the two new Remington Big Game Rifles—the models 721 and 722.

Their clean, graceful lines appeal to hunters. But the things we've heard discussed most are the strong actions and light weight of these fine rifles. That weight saving really makes a whale of a difference toward the end of the day's trek! Their perfect balance makes them easy to carry and fast to shoot. And the 721 and 722 are equipped with crisp match type triggers with lightning-fast let-off, plus an exclusive new extraction principle.



ACTION PRAISED

The Remington Models 721 and 722 feature the strongest action ever developed. The cartridge case is completely supported and enclosed by an encased bolt head and barrel. Gives maximum safety and accuracy. And to top it all off, these solid, dependable big game rifles are in a low price range that hunters really appreciate.

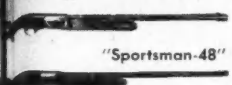
HUNTERS GET STOPPING POWER AT ALL HUNTING RANGES WITH REMINGTON BIG GAME CARTRIDGES

Especially designed for greater impact, Remington center fire cartridges with soft point "Core-Lokt" bullets give the hunter increased knock-down power. The notched bullet jacket with thick mid-section provides controlled expansion with minimum disintegration. Remington Big Game Cartridges are available in all popular calibers, with a variety of velocities, penetrating qualities and trajectories. Every big game hunter can find in Remington the right ammunition for the game he's after.

On impact, soft point "Core-Lokt" bullets expand to almost twice their original caliber.

"Sportsman" is Reg. U. S. Pat. Off., and "Core-Lokt" is a trade mark of Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn.

...usiasm Mounts for ...Remington Shotguns

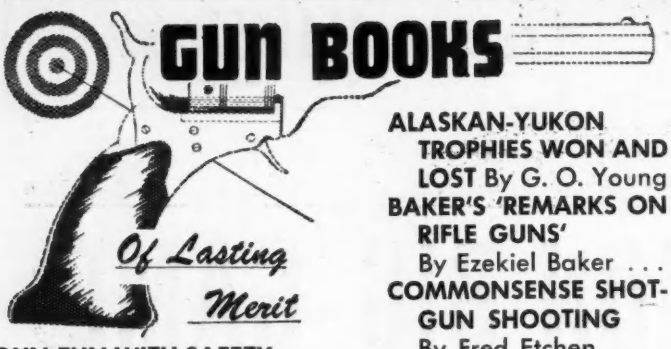


"Sportsman-48"

Model 11-48

...hunting pheasants, ...or for trap and skeet, ...dependable, fast shoot- ...Remington shotguns are ...ng mighty quickly in the ...tion of shooters. ...new "Sportsman-48" is a ...fully streamlined 3-shot ...der. Fast handling, ...inting—powerful, hard- ...rugged. 12, 16 and 20

...new Model 11-48 is a ...me 5-shot autoloader ...same graceful lines, ...ng power of "Sports- ..." It fulfills the promise ...etime of shooting fun.



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Proven and tested by your fellow shooters and sportsmen—SEE YOU IN DENVER.

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100% Virgin Wool Cruiser Coats, Jackets and Trousers. Favorite of Hunters, Bush Pilots, Guides and Prospectors throughout the North. Free list of Outdoor Wear, wool and down insulated clothing, sleeping robes, etc.

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Box 547 Fairbanks, Alaska

Colorado Saddlery Company, 1527 18th Street, Denver 2, Colorado, has written to extend a hearty welcome to all visitors to the NRA convention in October to visit their plant. The company produces an outstanding line of ornamental leathergoods.

We recently received from them a sample hand-tooled holster and also a gun mat, both works of art. The gun mat is one of those triangular, flat leather envelope-shaped affairs with a zipper around one edge for enclosing a pistol and keeping it from damage.

The sample we received is lined with sheepskin of the bark tanned variety. In order to prevent any chance of damage to the gun by rusting the lining is impregnated with genuine Rusteprufe.

United States Rubber Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana, has sent us a sample of Enrup, a new thermosetting plastic material which is being developed for use in gunstocks.

The material is moldable to precise dimensions and is also workable with most wood and metal-working hand or power tools. Apparently it has great stability, its moisture absorption being only .3 or 1 percent after 24 hours total immersion.

Its feel is warm like that of wood and it can easily be polished with a little machine oil and about as much sanding and rubbing as a nice piece of walnut.

It does not have the cheap, hard, varnish-like finish of some thermoplastic gunstocks. It has a more well-rubbed wood look.

This new plastic material has great possibilities. Certainly, it promises to get away entirely from the warpage and shrinkage which is unavoidable with wood.

Ray Riling, arms book dealer of 6844 Gorsten Street, Philadelphia 19, Pa., writes that he will again team up with publishers Stackpole & Heck in exhibiting at the 1949 NRA Convention at Denver. The combine will feature every available title on shooting and related subjects, regardless of publisher.

Cassell Cases, Grand Haven, Michigan, have a highly attractive item in their Custom-fit case for your pet gun. The case is accurately recessed on the inside to fit the exact gun for which it is ordered and there is also a recess for a box of ammunition, a cleaning rod, and a can of oil. The inner lining is a durable, heavily napped, velvety-soft rayon lining, which surrounds the gun on all sides and protects it.

The exterior is covered with weather- and snag-proof imitation leather in an attractive tan color. The case is fitted with three strong hinges and two polished brass snap locks with keys.

These cases are made specially for all well-known makes of fine American rifles and shotguns.

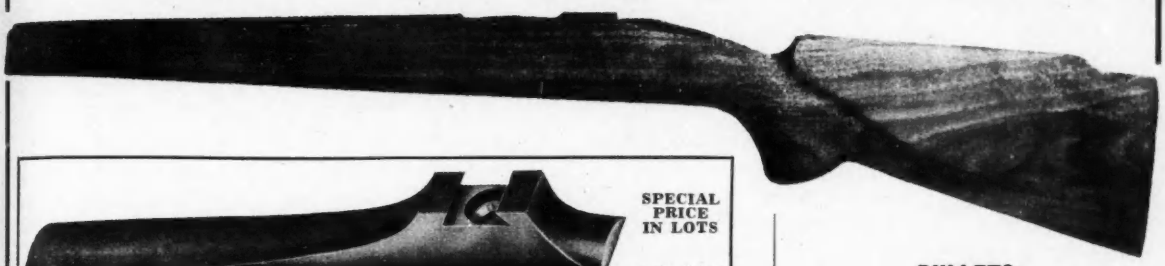
BOOK REVIEWS

HUNTIN' GUN

By Walter R. Rogers

Walter R. Rogers has one distinction. He holds the record for enthusiastic fan mail for any single article appearing in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN. That was after his first effort in the literary field, "Gun Feel," was published in the January, 1948, issue. The old

Flaig-ACE Gun Stocks



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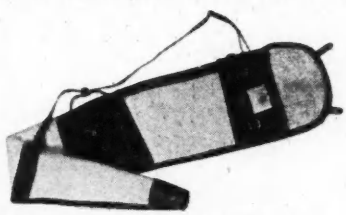

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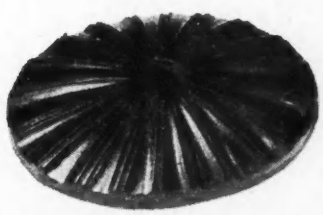

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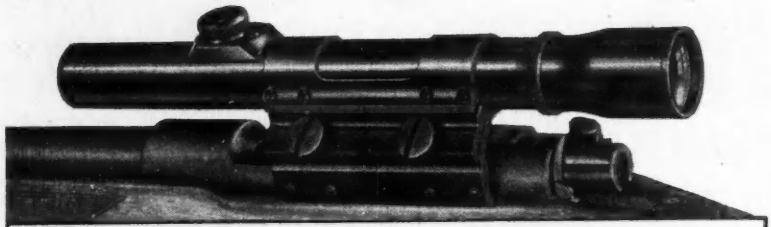

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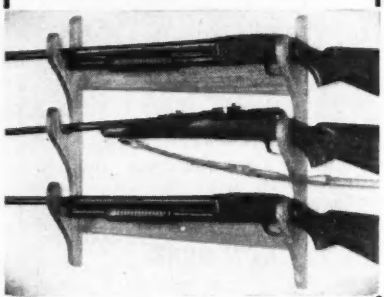

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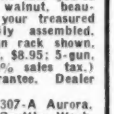

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cowpoke, hunter, and trapper had apparently struck a responsive chord in RIFLEMAN readers. When, a couple of months later, the cycle was repeated after his second effort, "Deerslayer's Gun," it became obvious that a lot of American sportsmen agreed with the Rogers theory that you can do remarkable things with a gun if you know it well enough—and agreed, moreover, that this man who had been a hunter almost half a century was also a remarkable story teller.

Huntin' Gun is the result—a collection of typical Rogers campfire yarns, all with a moral based on down-to-earth facts that many shooters have known and most have forgotten, but that any shooter can understand. And woven within the two dozen chapters is the color of the West this past half century and the robust humor that accompanies the association of man and gun and animal.

Aptly illustrated by the pens of Jim Berryman and Gib Crockett from the RIFLEMAN, *Huntin' Gun* should make a valued addition to the hunter's library—both from the standpoint of readability and thought-provoking horsesense.—R. J. STANN.

(Published by Infantry Journal Press, Washington, D. C. 178 pages. A National Rifle Association Library Book. Price $3.50.)

BASIC OPTICS FOR THE SPORTSMAN

By Earle B. Brown

The author knows his subject, for he is an optical engineer and chief designer for a well-known instrument firm, who has already written one well-known book, *Optical Instruments*. He takes the view that every sportsman is involved with optical devices whether he realizes it or not, for he is almost sure to have at least a camera or a pair of binoculars, even if he doesn't have the more specialized equipment such as telescope sights or spotting scope. The book is designed to give him an understanding of the principles on which all of these things work, what to look for in selecting them, how to maintain them and keep them in order, how to make simple checks and tests, and what to do about repairs.

In preparing this work, the author has steered a nice course between the two extremes of making the presentation so elementary and 'popular' as to be worthless, and making it so technical as to be too difficult to understand. It is neither. The information is clearly and simply presented in an interesting readable manner, and yet the basic scientific facts are contained in it.

The book has 259 pages of text, well illustrated with 173 diagrams and figures. The first three chapters cover the basic principles of optics in a manner that anyone can understand, and without mathematics. Following this first section, there is a chapter each on rifle scopes, binoculars, telescopes, cameras and microscopes. The third section of the book is devoted to care and selection of instruments in four chapters, one for each of the following subjects: optical malfunctions; deterioration of optical instruments; maintenance of optical instruments; and theoretical optics. This latter chapter approaches the mathematical principles of the subject, but it is only five pages long, and is included chiefly as a reference. There is also an excellent and useful glossary.

The book is well written, interesting and instructive, and is one we can recommend.—J. S. H.

(Published by Stoeger Arms Corporation, 507 Fifth Avenue, N. Y., $4.00.)

THE ARMS CHEST

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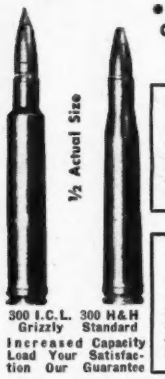

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R'nge	Vert. Spread	Horiz. Spread	Drop
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See Page 73

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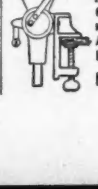

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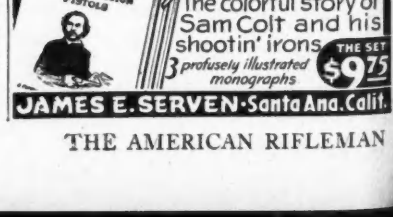
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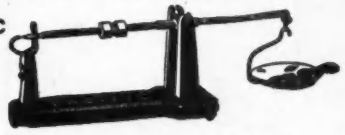

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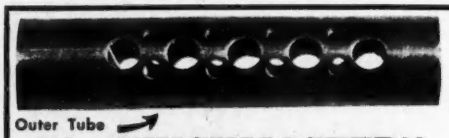

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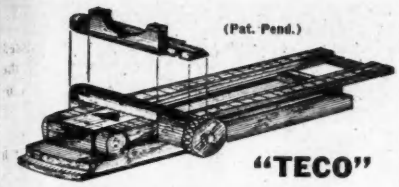

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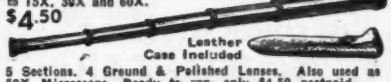

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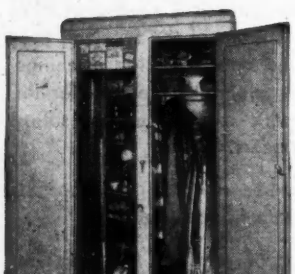

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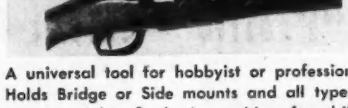

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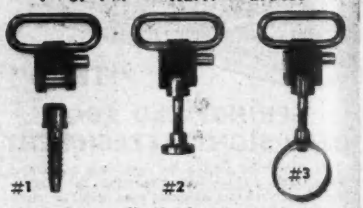

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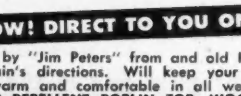

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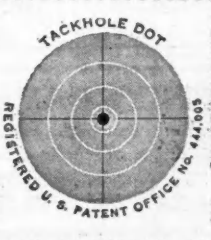

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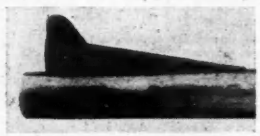

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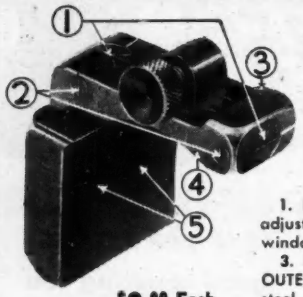

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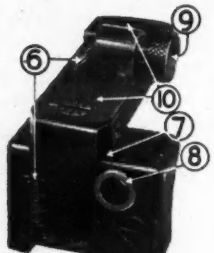

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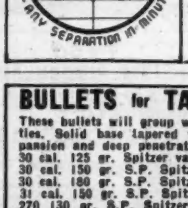

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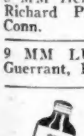

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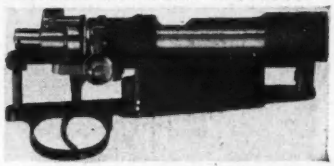

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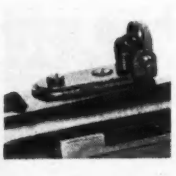

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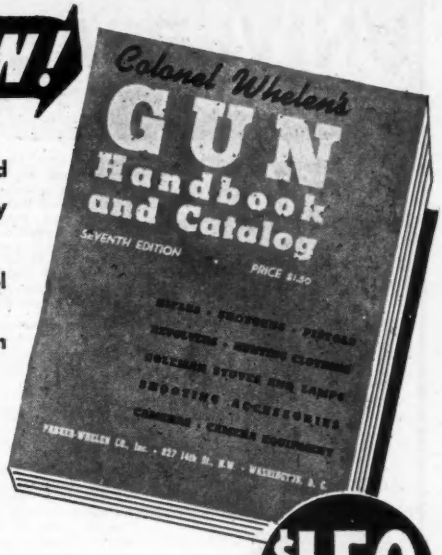

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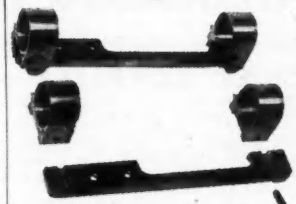

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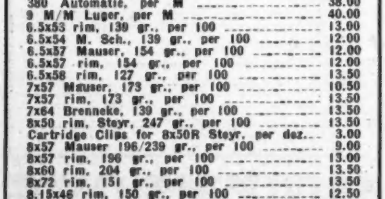

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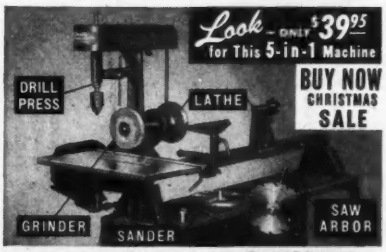

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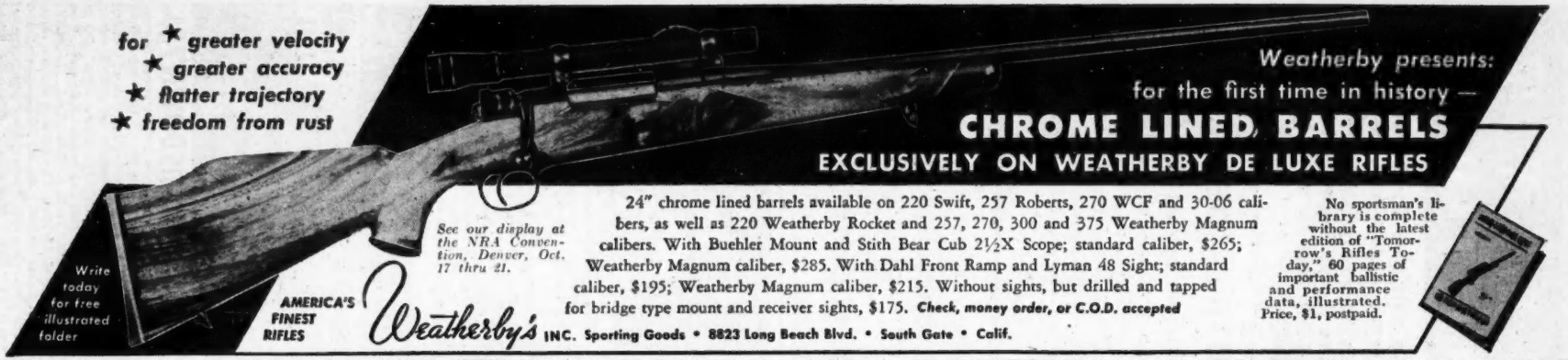

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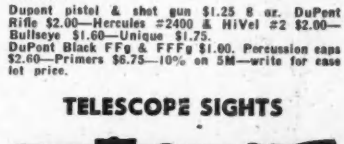

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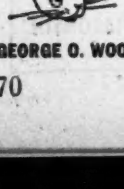

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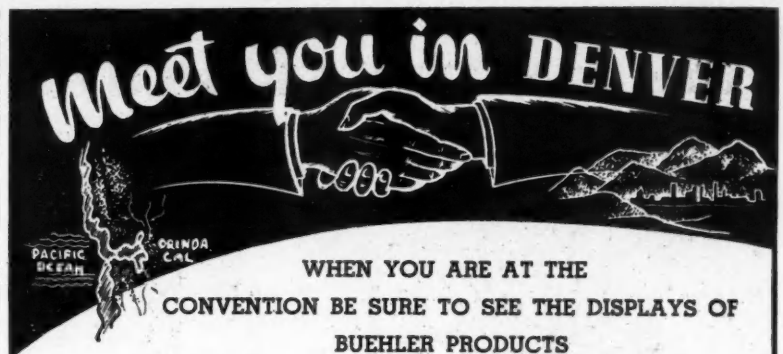

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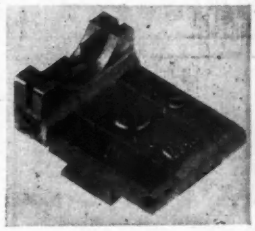

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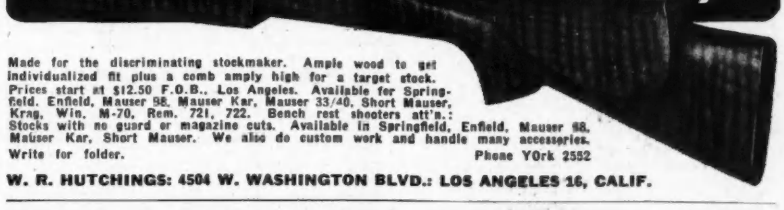

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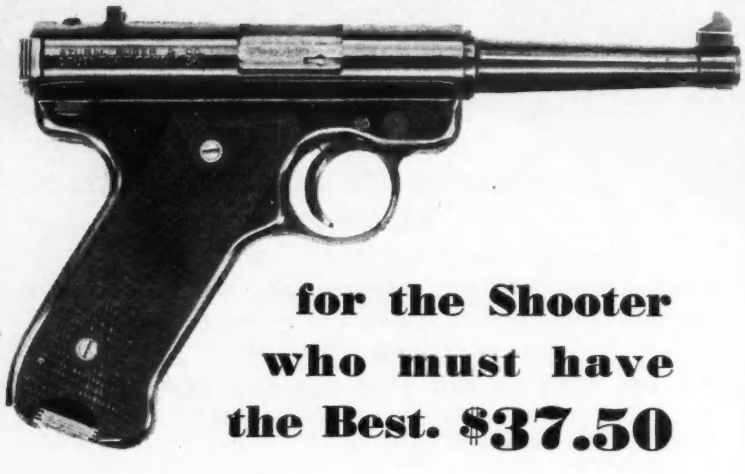

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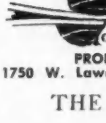

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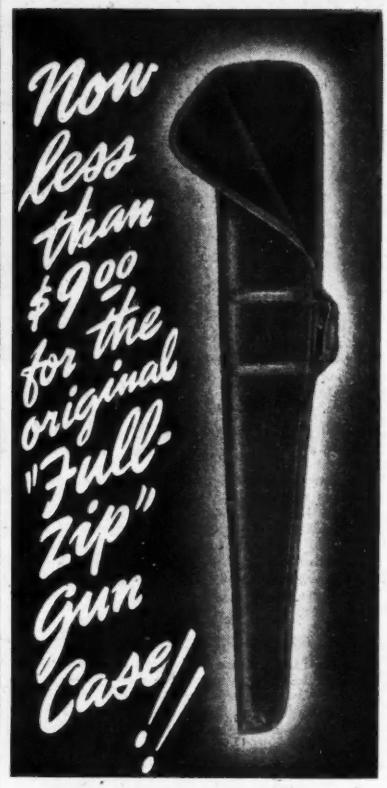

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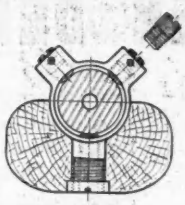

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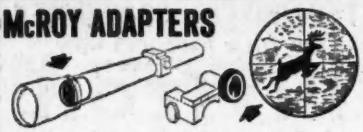

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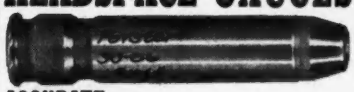

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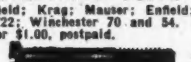
GUARD  **SCREWS** for Springfield, Enfield (std. or straight guard), Krag and Mauser, 60¢ a pair. Lock screw type for Mauser (4 screws), $1.25, post paid.

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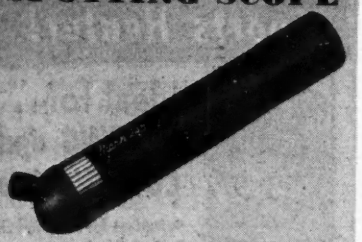

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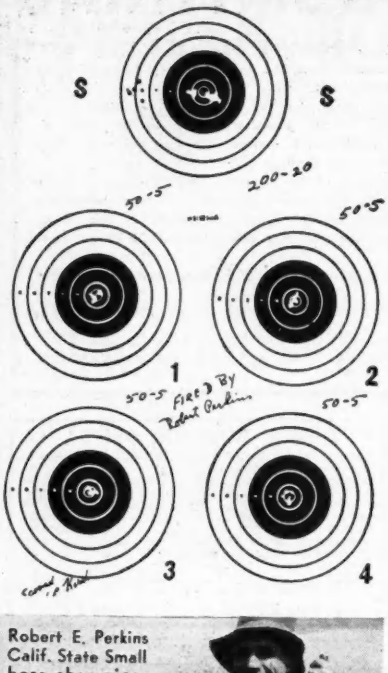

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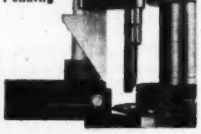

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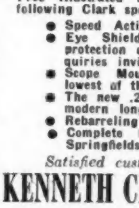

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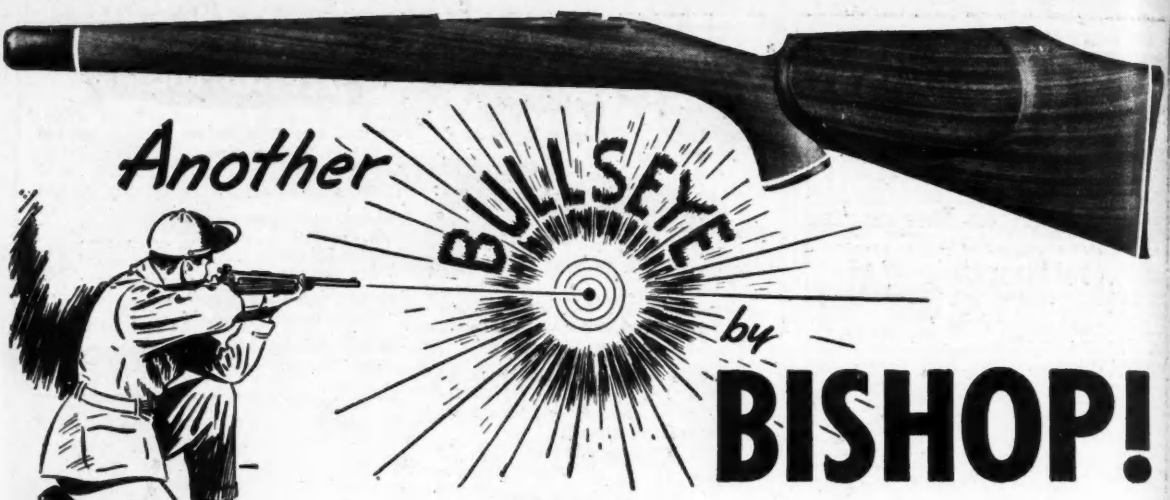

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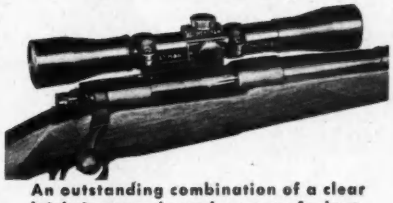

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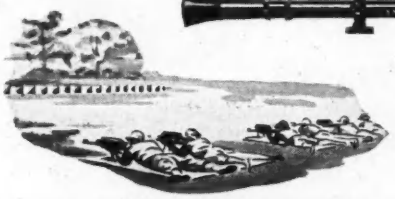

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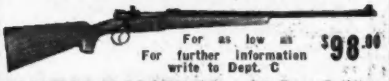

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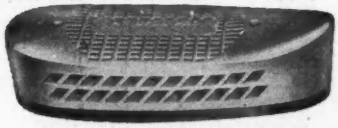

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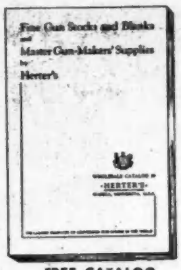

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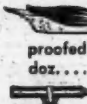

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Barrel lengths up to 30" furnished to order at slight delay

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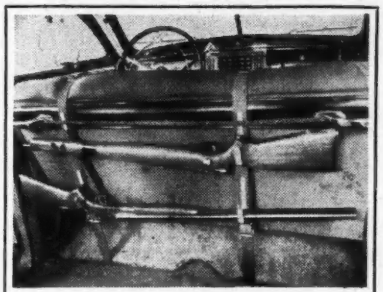

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SEE PAGE 96

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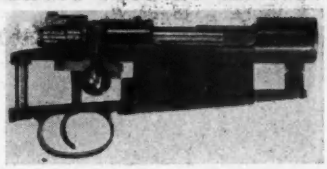

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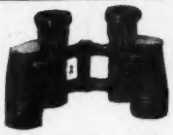

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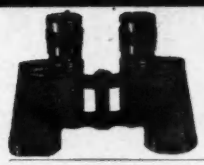

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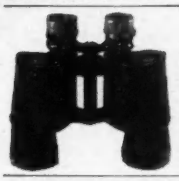

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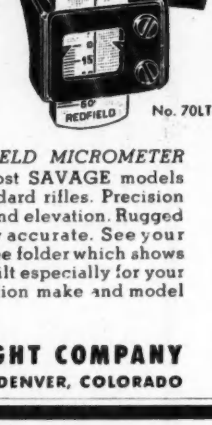

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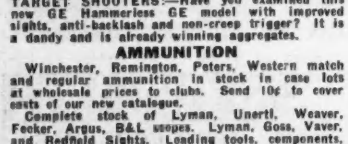

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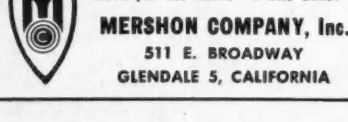

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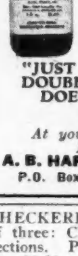

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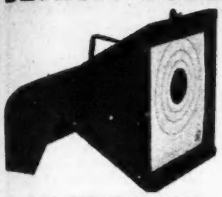

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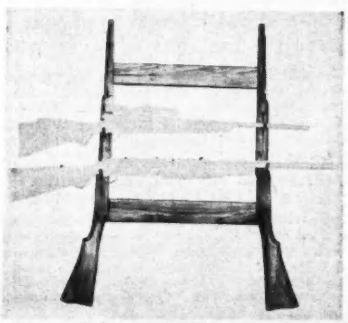

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Jackets are drawn from tough gilding-metal alloy (90% copper, 10% zinc) of .035" thickness. There is approximately .007" taper in side-wall thickness, jackets being .024" thick at base and .017" thick at top. These jackets will not metal-foul a barrel even when driven at extreme velocities.

Cores are separately swaged from hardened lead wire (97% lead, 3% antimony) before being inserted in the drawn jackets. This hard lead gives a strong tip and it will be noted that cartridges loaded with "ABC" bullets will not show battered or excessively flattened bullet noses from recoil when the rifle is kept with full magazine. Therefore the last cartridge from the magazine will be as accurate and feed as reliably from the magazine as the first. Because of this, it is possible to use "ABC" bullets for rapid fire target shooting, as well as big-game hunting.

"ABC" bullets will drop the game without destroying the meat. The design and strength of the bullet is based on the advice of numerous experienced hunters, who recommended one which will penetrate game of the deer class, going completely through on side-to-side shots and expanding to over .50 caliber in doing so, in order that non-vital shots will create large, clean wounds which bleed very freely. These weaken the animal rapidly as well as provide an easily-followed trail. There will be few deer lost with "ABC" bullets.

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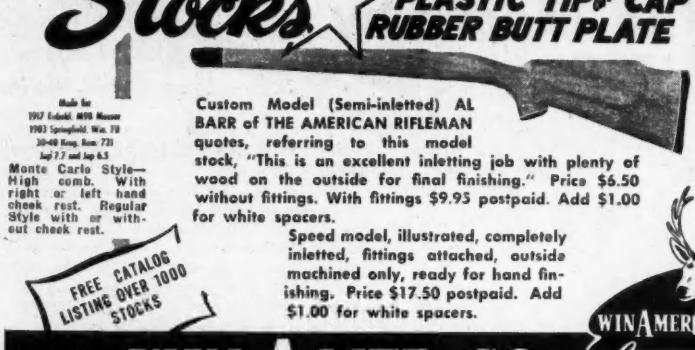

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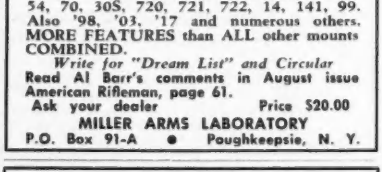

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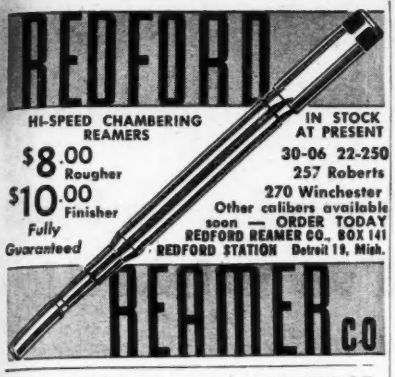

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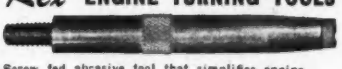

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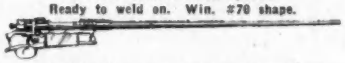

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